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# Stevens Genealogy



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Some Descendants

OF THE

# Fitz Stephen Family

IN ENGLAND AND NEW ENGLAND.

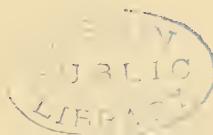
BY

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KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF CHRIST  
OF PORTUGAL.

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NEW YORK  
PRIVately PRINTED  
1904



\*CS71  
S844  
1904

Rec. 12-12-52  
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# Introduction



THE Norman house of Fitz Stephen originally took its cognomen from the Christian name borne in honor of St. Stephen, the first martyr of the Church. In the development of English surnames allusion to landed estates, to Christian names, or to occupations was characteristic—usually with corruption or alteration in process of time in either sound or spelling, or both, and almost invariably in spelling. The family of Le Despencer, for instance, with whom a branch of the Stevens family is connected, took designation from the high office at court of Dispenser or Lord Steward of the royal household, held by the earlier ancestors. The name grew to be Despencer, then De Spencer, and finally Spencer, by which corrupted form are now known the men of this blood—the Dukes of Marlborough and Earls Spencer. The “de” in most Norman surnames has long since been dropped. The De Wessingtons have become Washingtons, the De Walgraves, by curious confusion, Waldegraves; the De Winterwades, Wentworths; and a similar process of change has been usual.

In like transition the name Fitz Stephen became Fitz Stephens, and then Stephens. And as spelling was long unsettled, the alphabetical letters being used with wide liberty, if somehow they conveyed the intended sound—

the name came to be spelled in a variety of ways. The principal spellings, Stephens and Stevens, have been used interchangeably in repeated instances, as applied to the same individuals, both in England and America. The later American forms of Steevens and Stevens, as settled by distinctly traceable processes evidenced by old family documents, are well-known corruptions of the original. Among other spellings on both sides of the Atlantic may be mentioned Stephenes, Stepheyns, Stephyns, Stevyns, Steveens, Steevens, Steevans, Stevins and Schyvyns. The essential point in genealogy, of course, is actual blood descent; and alterations in the structure or spelling of a name, or even entire change of name, is of but incidental consequence. Varied form in the name is one of the well-recognized marks of an ancient family.

The coat-of-arms of this house, as recorded by the College of Heralds, and continuously in use in the English and American branches, is settled as being: "Per chevron, azure and argent, in chief two falcons volant or." In ordinary English, this designates a shield divided by an inverted V, the upper half blue and the lower half silver. In the upper half are two falcons of gold in the attitude of opening their wings to begin flying. In some old descriptions the word "volant," which designates this attitude, is given as "rising"—"in chief two falcons rising or." Either description is correct, one being equivalent to the other. The crest is "a demi-eagle displayed or"—in other words, an eagle of gold showing in front down to, but excluding the legs, and with wings outstretched. It has been suggested that this eagle may have been intended for a falcon, or the falcons in the shield may originally have been eagles. And a certain color is given to this suggestion by the fact that in some instances the falcons have been called eagles,

and also that eagles have been used on the arms of a family of the name supposed to be a distant collateral branch. In the old usage of seals figures were sometimes imperfectly represented, or the wax impressions became indistinct by wear; so that it cannot now be definitely known what was the original intent in such ancient arms. In the present case the Herald's Visitations agree that the oldest examples of the shield already in existence four centuries ago when arms were being settled, showed falcons; and they have made the description official. A crescent or mullet has occasionally been added as an authorized mark to indicate a younger offshoot of the family—and there have been, as in all old shields, some variations. But the original arms belong to the class of the longest recorded heraldry in England. The present writer has seen original drawings of these arms in ancient manuscripts in the British Museum. The arms are shown in glass at the manor houses of the family and in carvings at Chavenage House, Churchdown, Sodbury Manor House, and on the tombs of Edward Stephens in Eastington church, and Thomas Stephens in Stroud church, and like memorials. And they are officially recorded in the Visitations of Gloucestershire by the College of Heralds, 1623, 1682, 1683 and otherwise, and have been many times engraved in published works, as in the plate of Sir Philip Stephens, Bart., in Bentham's Baronets; in Burke's Extinct Baronetcies, etc. The motto, as is allowable, has been varied and has included the following: "Je vis en espoir", "Vigilans et audax", "Concilio et armis", "Fides Stephani", and "Byde Tyme", the latter being old English for "Abide time"—meaning patience or endurance with unflinching purpose. The earliest recorded use of a seal in the family is in a deed between Roger, Prior

Lathbury Abbey and Roger Fitz Alan for the chapel of Harscombe, to which were affixed the seals of Margaret de Bohun and William Fitz Stephen, brother of Ralph Fitz Stephen, Baron of Wapley, in 1131.<sup>1</sup>

It cannot be said that the heraldic charges in old days were as full of meaning as sometimes has been claimed. But it may not be uninteresting to note what the Rev. W. Sloan Sloan-Evans says in his Grammar of Heraldry regarding the armorial use of the falcon. "She is reckoned, says Gwillim, 'the sovereign queen of all fowls'. The Egyptians did express the sun by a falcon, in regard to faithfulness, vivacity, celerity and quicknesse of sight". "This bird saith Upton, is very bold and hardy, for she encountereth with fowls much greater than herself. It doth show, that he which first took upon him the bearing thereof, was one eager and hot in the pursuit of anything much cared for". Notwithstanding this fine writing, it is to be feared that the only thing in mind when the device came to be the cognizance of this family, was the circumstance that the falcon was a familiar object to those then engaged in the excitements of "hunting with hawk and hound."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's *Monasticon*, X, 89.

<sup>2</sup> In this connection it may be pardonable to call attention to the fact that similarity of family names does not in itself constitute a right to a coat of arms for persons not of the actual blood of the family to which such arms belong. The cognomen Stephens or Stevens is borne by numerous families on both sides of the Atlantic, descended from ancestors of Saxon, Welsh, or unknown extraction, who had the not uncommon Christian name of Stephen, but with no more relation to each other than if their names, accidentally alike, were as different as their blood. There is of course, no such thing as a "Stevens' Coat of Arms" in the sense that any one bearing the name of Stephens or Stevens can by that reason of mere name honestly use the arms. Among the differing coats of arms associated with several gentle families of the name, the one here described is, of course, limited to this, the only Norman house; and can be borne solely in the male succession of this line—save when used as a quartering by descendants of an heiress or co-heiress of the house, added to the male arms of their own families. As the genealogy has been carefully kept both in England and America, and never "lost" or in need of being "looked up", the evidence of who is, and therefore of who is not entitled to the arms, is in possession of the family. Instances have occurred in which persons having no arms of their own have attempted to use as male arms the arms of an ancestress, in violation of

The Fitz Stephen family came over with William the Conqueror, and were feudal barons in Gloucestershire from the reign of King Henry II, first of the Plantagenets.<sup>1</sup> In that reign Ralph Fitz Stephen, Baron of Wapley, and his brother William, afterwards Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of England, were jointly High Sheriffs of the shire, a position then of such influence that there was effort to make it hereditary in the noble families.<sup>2</sup> Later other members of the family held the office. In 1634 Edward Stephens was appointed High Sheriff; and in 1643-44 Thomas Stephens so served under appointment of the Long Parliament. Sir Thomas Stephens, brother of John Stephens of Guilford, Connecticut, ancestor of the American line, was High Sheriff in 1671, Thomas Stephens in 1693, and Nathaniel Stephens in 1698. Many of the family have been members of Parliament. Some have received Knighthood, and Sir Philip Stephens, F. R. S., Lord of the Admiralty, was created a Baronet in 1795. Several have acquired note in literature, and one was Historiographer Royal of England. Immediate family connections by marriage count more than one Bishop of the Church, the Earls of Oxford and Mortimer, the Lords Crewe of Stene, and others of the nobility, the celebrated Chief Justice Sir Matthew Hale, and (by three ties), Oliver Cromwell. Descent by female lines and heiresses has included the Earls of Gloucester, Northumberland, Warwick, Pembroke, Surry, etc., the Barons De Ros, Beauchamp, Le Despencer, and others of

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propriety. Fortunately a more intelligent understanding, and a sense of honor in these things, is making it increasingly difficult to take for oneself in heraldry what belongs to others—and incidentally public ridicule of such assumption is aiding the result. Inquiries made of the present writer by numerous individuals seem to call for these observations at a time when mistakes in the use of heraldry are only too possible even where best intentions exist.

<sup>1</sup> The feudal nobility became so powerful that the sovereigns eventually substituted for it the modern titular ranks.

<sup>2</sup> Taswell-Langmead, Eng. Constitutional Hist., p. 91.

the ancient baronage of England, and coheiresses of four abeyant peerages—with lineage from several of the noble and princely houses of Europe, and from the English royal line of King Edward I; with subsequent repeated intermarriages with the royal family down to and including the house of Tudor.<sup>1</sup>

At different times the manors of Wapley, Winterbourne, Lewynesmede, Eastington, Alkerton, Fretherne, Lypiatt Park, Little Sodbury, Chavenage, Bisley, Horton, Cherington and Alderley have been seats of the family in Gloucestershire, with estates in other counties. And the American branch has been in possession of landed property in all its generations.

The family though now existing in the male descent only in America, had, after colonial times, its first native-born citizen of the United States in the direct line, in the person of the grandfather of the present head of the house. That means that for more than seven hundred years the members of this house were born subjects of the King, and that present native citizenship of the new nation of the United States is a matter of only some ninety-eight years, or the possible span of a single human life. The last head of the family who was born a British subject died but seventy-seven years ago. The circumstances, whatever their bearing, are of interest, and illustrate how close are the ties existing between the mother and daughter countries as represented by some English families in America.

The present writer as eldest male representative has received by inheritance the family records and papers, covering many generations from English times to to-day. These papers which include deeds, wills, transfers, settle-

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<sup>1</sup> This book being a record of the male line, does not go into details of the collateral descent.

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ments and legal documents of all descriptions, besides a large collection of correspondence of different periods, give ample information; and as in other old English houses, the family's genealogy has always been preserved. Some years ago the writer spent considerable time in England verifying the facts of the family history and enlarging the biographies from information there available. He was courteously accorded access to original manuscripts, the official records of the College of Heralds, the collections in the British Museum, and other historical materials. And his study has been still further fortified by reference to practically all sources of authority on the subject that have been published, and by correspondence with English and American members of the family, and otherwise. He begs to acknowledge obligation for much valuable assistance. The present pedigree, the publication of which has been provided for by members of the family, is thus based upon original contemporaneous documents and legal papers of the archives, as verified by historical research.<sup>1</sup>

The work is confined to the main line of descent except in so far as side lines are closely connected with it. For kind co-operation in procuring illustrations for the book, thanks are due to Harvard University, the Boston Public Library, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and several friends on both sides the sea — notably to the Rev. Canon Fox of Stroud, and Lowsley Williams, Esq., the present Squire of Chavenage House, Gloucestershire.

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<sup>1</sup> The particulars regarding the Fitz Stephen family from the Norman Conquest down to the time of Henry of Frocester as given in the present work are fuller and more complete than have hitherto appeared. As many of the generations rest on land inheritance or historical fact—the task of thus recording the difficult period has not been difficult, although the writer is unable to vouch for every detail. Names of individuals have in instances been problematical. Prior to the reign of Queen Elizabeth family records in England were usually less well cared for, than thereafter. Most old genealogies take on a fullness after her time, that was unknown in the Middle Ages. The Visitations to the College of Heralds greatly aided this result.

Coats of Arms of the family and its alliances are introduced to a limited extent, from authenticated sources.

The annals of the house pass through periods of Anglo-Saxon history of more than private interest. While these pages are intended essentially for the personal convenience of members of the family, it has been thought of value to refer from time to time to the historical scenes with which the ancestral figures were associated—with a view to giving a life-touch to what might otherwise be but a rehearsal of dry facts.

# Pedigree

## LINE I

AIRARD FITZ STEPHEN, a nobleman of Normandy, was placed by William the Conqueror in command of the "Mora", the ship presented by his Duchess and eventual Queen, Matilda of Flanders, for his personal use in the fleet conveying the Norman forces to England for the battle of Hastings, 1066.<sup>1</sup> Vessels for this fleet had been given by all the leading nobles of the duchy, many of whom, as well known, embarked on the expedition. Detained by lack of favorable winds the vessels for the fateful expedition harbored for a time at St. Vallery on the French coast, where as Miss Strickland says,<sup>2</sup> "William was surprised by the arrival of his Duchess at the port, in a splendid vessel of war, called the Mora, which she had caused to be built unknown to him, and adorned in the most royal style of magnificence for his acceptance. The effigy of their youngest son, William, formed of gilded bronze, some writers say of gold, was placed at the prow of this vessel, with his face turned towards England, holding a trumpet to his lips with one hand, and bearing in the other a bow, with the arrow aimed at England. It seemed as if the wind had only delayed in order to enable Matilda to offer this gratifying and auspicious gift to her departing

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<sup>1</sup> Taylor's Anonymous MS., Littleton I, 464; Strickland's Queens of England I, 116.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, I, 33.

lord; for scarcely had the acclamations with which it was greeted by the admiring host died away when the long desired breeze sprang up". "A joyful clamor", says William of Malmesbury, "then arising, summoned every one to the ships". Wace in the "Roman de Rou" mentions that the *Mora* was anchored in the outer harbor, and set sail in the lead of the fleet, which it soon left out of sight. In the Bayeaux Tapestry Queen Matilda has given a representation of this vessel and of Airard Fitz Stephen; but the figure of Prince William is represented at the stern instead of the prow, and the outlines of the craft are conventionalized so as to diminish the actual proportions. Arrived on the English coast the Conqueror slipped in landing, and fell, clutching the sand; but quickly turned the incident to account by declaring that it was a token of his possession of the kingdom. He ordered the hulls of the ships to be pierced so as to prevent easy retreat by his troops. Airard Fitz Stephen remained for the battle of Hastings (Senlac). He had issue a son;

THOMAS FITZ STEPHEN, who commanded the "Blanche Nef", better known as the "White Ship", "the finest vessel in the Norman navy".<sup>1</sup> This vessel is forever associated with the great catastrophe by which when conveying Prince William, the heir to the throne, accompanied by a large number of the nobility, from Harfleur to England it struck a hidden rock and went down with the loss of all but one of those on board.<sup>2</sup> Fitz Stephen

<sup>1</sup> Strickland, 1, p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> Dante Gabriel Rossetti has versed this:—

Stout Fitz Stephen came to the King—  
A captain famous in seafaring;  
  
And he held to the King, in all men's sight,  
A mark of gold for his tribute's right.

caught a floating spar of the wreck, but on learning of the death of Prince William was so overcome that he lost his hold and sank into the sea, 1120.<sup>1</sup> He had issue;

- I. RALPH, of whom presently.
- II. Stephen, Governor of Cardigan Castle,<sup>2</sup> who married Nesta, daughter of Reys ap Tedwr, King of South Wales, by whom he had issue;
  1. Robert, one of the Norman conquerors of Ireland. Robert Fitz Stephen was active in war in Wales and was held captive three years by his cousin Rhys ap Greffydd, and released on the mediation of his half brother, David Fitz Gerald, Bishop of St. Davids. He then became active in the conquest of Ireland, and his success led to

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“ Liege Lord ! My father guided the ship  
   From whose boat your father’s foot did slip,  
 “ When he caught the English soil in his grip,  
   And cried, ‘ by this clasp I claim command  
   O’er every rood of English land ! ’  
 “ He was borne to the realm you rule o’er now  
   In that ship with the archer carved at her prow,  
 “ And thither I’ll bear an’ it be my due,  
   Your father’s son and his grandson too ”.  
       \* \* \* \*  
 Quoth the King ; “ My ships are chosen each one,  
   But I’ll not say nay to Stephen’s son.  
 “ My son and daughter and fellowship  
   Shall cross the water in the White Ship.”

<sup>1</sup> Odericus Vitalis refers to Thomas Fitz Stephen. See also Tirry’s Anglo-Normans ; Strickland, I, 117 ; Hume I, 262, etc. Strickland says, (I, 116), that Thomas Fitz Stephen “ demanded the honor of conveying the heir of England home because his father had commanded the Mora, the ship that brought William the Conqueror to the shores of England. His petition was granted.”

<sup>2</sup> This Stephen Fitz Stephen has long been claimed as a member of the family—the claim not always being admitted. The general facts are now pretty well ascertained ; and while it cannot be said that all doubt is removed, the discoveries are confirmatory of the claim. As the weight of evidence is decidedly in favor of his place in this genealogy, he is so placed with this note to qualify the entry. Whether his name is included in the pedigree or not, in no way affects the line of descent, as his own line died out with his son.

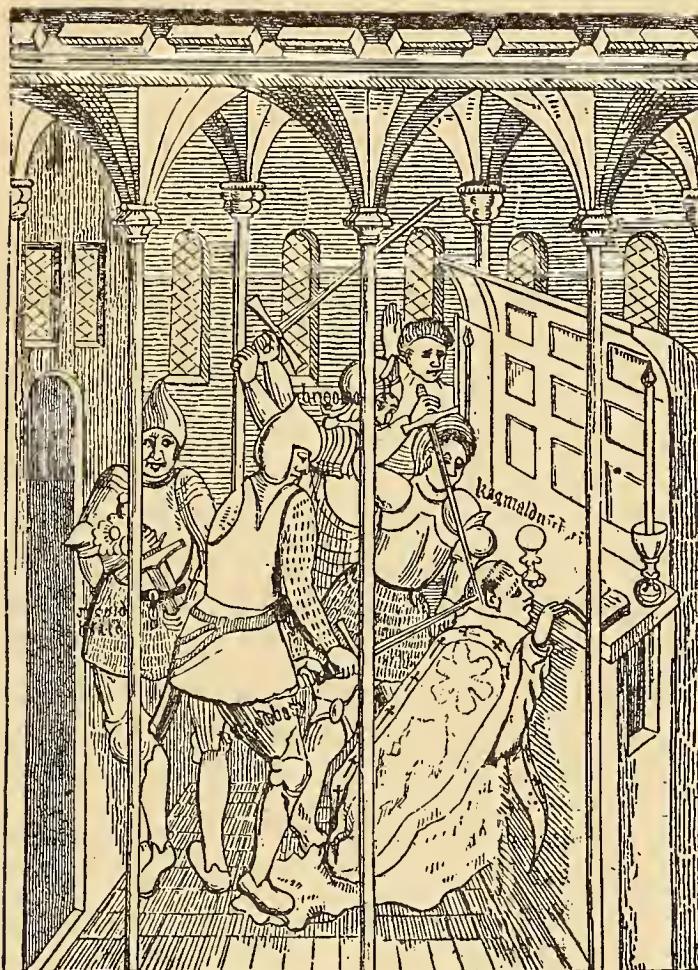
the movement of Richard de Clare, commonly called Strongbow, a member of the family of the Earls of Gloucester. He also fought for Henry II in the English civil war of 1173, and in France 1174. In 1177 he, with Miles Cogan, received a grant of the Kingdom of Cork on condition of feudal service to the King of England by sixty knights. Later he was associated with William Fitz Aldhelm in the government. He reigned five years at Cork, and died 1183 leaving no heirs.<sup>1</sup>

RALPH FITZ STEPHEN, son and heir of Thomas Fitz Stephen, captain of the White Ship, flourished in the reigns of William Rufus and Henry I, and had issue;

- I. RALPH, Baron of Wapley, of whom presently.
- II. William, who took Holy Orders, was a monk of the Benedictine Order at Canterbury Cathedral, a close friend of St. Thomas a'Becket, a judicial official in association with the great Archbishop, and eventually Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of England. He was present at the Council of Northampton, October 13, 1164, and was sitting near Becket when Hubert of Bosham gave the rash advice to the Archbishop to excommunicate his enemies if they laid hands on him. William induced the Archbishop to refuse this advice, as the latter afterwards confessed when during his exile he met William at St. Benedict's on the Loire.<sup>2</sup> He was present in Canterbury Cathedral and an eye witness to the assassination of Becket. And he subse-

<sup>1</sup> Cyclopædia of National Biography, Vol. XIX, 211, 212.

<sup>2</sup> Vit. S. Thomæ, 12, 59.



WILLIAM FITZ STEPHEN AT THE ASSASSINATION OF  
THOMAS A' BECKET

From an old print of the ancient painting in the chapel of the  
Holy Cross, Stratford-upon-Avon

quently wrote the "Life of St. Thomas"—which is the principal historical authority for Becket's biography.<sup>1</sup> In this work he introduced a description of the city of London as it appeared at that time—being "by far the most graphic and elaborate account of London during the twelfth century",<sup>2</sup> and one of the earliest references to any European

<sup>1</sup> The historian Hume who relies on William Fitz Stephen mainly for his facts about Becket, gives a curious illustration of the social conditions of the period, Vol. II, p. 15. "His historian and secretary, Fitz Stephens mentions among other particulars, that his appartments were every day in winter covered with clean straw or hay, and in summer with green rushes and boughs, lest the gentlemen who paid court to him and who could not by reason of their great number find a place at table should soil their fine clothes by sitting on a dirty floor." He refers to a feudal provision by which the Lordship of Aylesbury was held, which required on the King's visits straw for the floor in winter and "grass or herbs" in summer.

<sup>2</sup> Cyclopædia of National Biography, Vol. XIX. Knight's Cyclopædia of Biography, says (II, 112, 113, 922) of Chief Justice Fitz Stephen, that if we may judge from his quotations he was well versed in Latin and had looked into several of the Greek classics. There is a fine

capital. This account has been published in Stow's "Survey of London", and in Hearne's edition of Leland's "Itinerary". The "Life of St. Thomas" was first printed in Sparks' "Historiae Anglicanæ Scriptores" 1723. The chief later editions are those of Dr. Giles, 1845, and Rev. J. C. Robertson, 1877. William Fitz Stephen appears to have escaped most of the disadvantages of intimacy with Becket, and has himself preserved a Latin poem of some ninety lines which he composed and presented to King Henry II, in the chapel of Bruhull, in return for which the King granted him a pardon. In 1171-90 he was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, part of the time in association with his brother Ralph.<sup>1</sup> In 1176 he was appointed a national judge on the establishment of Circuit Courts, and was placed by Henry II at the head of the six judicial circuits, into which the kingdom was then divided. His circuit included Gloucestershire, and his court decisions are recorded in that, and during four following years in fourteen other counties. His name appears as Chief Justice Itinerant so late as the first year of the reign of Richard Coeur de Lion.<sup>2</sup> The earliest known use of the seal in this family is recorded of him, 1131, at the chapel of Harscombe, in attesting a deed between Roger, Prior of Lathbury Abbey, and Roger Fitz Alan—his

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manuscript of his history among the Lansdowne volumes (No. 398) in the British Museum, and a fragment in the Bodlian Library at Oxford.

<sup>1</sup> Foss I, 370; Fuller I, 569.

<sup>2</sup> Foss, *ibid.* cf. Madox I, 83, 127, &c.; Horeden II, 88.

seal and that of Margaret de Bohun being affixed to the document.<sup>1</sup> He died about 1190.

RALPH FITZSTEPHEN, Baron of Wapley by feudal tenure, great grandson of Airard Fitz Stephen, was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1171, the eighteenth year of the reign of King Henry II, conjointly with his brother William Fitz Stephen.<sup>2</sup> Through him the family seem first to have become residents of this shire, with which they remained connected for so many generations. A clue to the cause of settlement in the county may be found in the fact that he became treasurer of the great Abbey of Malmesbury in Gloucestershire, not far from the time that the historian William of Malmesbury was resident there. He had charge as a layman of the feudal relations of the Abbey, and the administration of its estates.<sup>3</sup> Speaking of the Norman changes in the government of Saxon times, Gardiner says, "The local chiefs gave way to the King's representatives. One local officer indeed grew into increased activity. This was the officer who in each shire had always been especially the King's officer, the shire-reeve, or sheriff, who looked after the interests of the King, while the ealdorman or earl represented the separate being of the shire. Under William the Conqueror earls ceased to be appointed save where they had distinct military duties. Under his successors earldoms gradually sank into merely honorary dignities. But the sheriff was in the Norman reigns the busiest of all officers".<sup>4</sup> The office was of such power as to be held only by persons of rank, high in the King's favor, and differed essentially from that of the same name in modern times. In matters of administration its

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's *Monasticon* X, 189.

<sup>2</sup> Foss I, 370; Fuller I, 569.

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale's *Monasticon* IV, 563.

<sup>4</sup> *Eyclopædia Brit.* III, 298.

responsibilities necessitated that the sheriff be at the head of a body of knights and armed retainers. Ralph Fitz Stephen was possessed of landed estates in Gloucestershire. In the latter part of the reign of Henry II, he received the feudal barony of Wapley, of which Codrington was the chief seat, and shortly after 1189, he bestowed the manor upon the Abbey of Stanley in Wiltshire, its income to be devoted to payment for masses for the repose of the soul of the late King.<sup>1</sup> This Norman baron died 1190, in the first year of the reign of Richard Coeur de Lion, having married — de Berkeley, of Berkeley Castle, co. Gloucester,<sup>2</sup> near Eastington, by whom he had a son,

FITZ RALPH FITZ STEPHEN, who was one of the Crusaders who went from England to the Holy Land probably in the third Crusade, under Richard Coeur de Lion, 1190,<sup>3</sup> leaving a son;

JOHN FITZ STEPHEN,<sup>4</sup> who it appears married a daughter of the De Bradeston family, and had issue;

HENRY FITZ STEPHENS, Baron of Winterbourne, by feudal tenure, concerning whom there is evidence, that in the civil war of Edward II, he was close to the scene and events, without being party to the assassination of the King in Berkeley Castle, 1327. In the reign of King Edward III, he held the lordship of Winterbourne conjointly with Thomas, first Lord Bradeston, Governor of Berkeley Castle.<sup>5</sup> He had issue a son;

<sup>1</sup> Transactions of Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society, VIII, 211.

<sup>2</sup> This castle, long the home of the Earls of Berkeley, is still standing, and has been continually a residence of the family since the Norman period.

<sup>3</sup> Rolls of Crusaders.

<sup>4</sup> The Christian name is uncertain. It is probable that he was named in honor of King John in whose reign he was born. Naming a son for the King was not unusual in this family.

<sup>5</sup> Transactions, Bristol and Gloucester Arch. Soc. XXIV, 23.

HENRY FITZ STEPHENS, whose name is not certainly known though his personality is. He is referred to in legal documents; his son having inherited from the latter's grandfather, on the recorded ground that he, the father, had died before the date of inheritance, i. e. *vita patris*. He left a son and heir;

JOHN FITZ STEPHENS, Baron of Winterbourne, who succeeded his grandfather in the lordship, holding it conjointly with Thomas de Bradeston, second Lord Bradeston, grandson of Thomas, first Lord Bradeston, before mentioned. Dying 1374<sup>1</sup> he left issue;

JOHN STEPHENS, Esq., of St. Brivals, co. Gloucester, with whom the family first omitted the Norman "Fitz" from its name. The joint holding of the manor of Winterbourne with the De Bradestons ended with him in consequence of the extinction of the male line of the De Bradeston family which followed the death of the second baron of that house. He is recorded to have held lands at St. Brival's Castle, and a baliwick in the royal Forest of Deane, in the ninth year of the reign of King Richard II, 1386.<sup>2</sup> Having married a daughter of —— Spelly, of Lewynesmede, co. Gloucester, he had issue;

RICHARD STEPHENYS, Baron of Lewynesmede,<sup>3</sup> by feudal tenure, who married a daughter of John Castel, of Bristol,<sup>4</sup> and died 1390 having had issue;

I. JOHN, of whom presently.

II. A daughter, who married John Bassett, Esq. He died 1410.

<sup>1</sup> Transactions, Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc. XXIV, 23.

<sup>2</sup> Bentham's Baronets, IV, 264.

<sup>3</sup> The holding of Lewynesmede on his part was probably by arrangement through his mother. The lordship finally passed into possession of the Stephens family with his son John.

<sup>4</sup> The name is uncertain.

III. A daughter, who married Sir Philip Sherrer.<sup>1</sup>

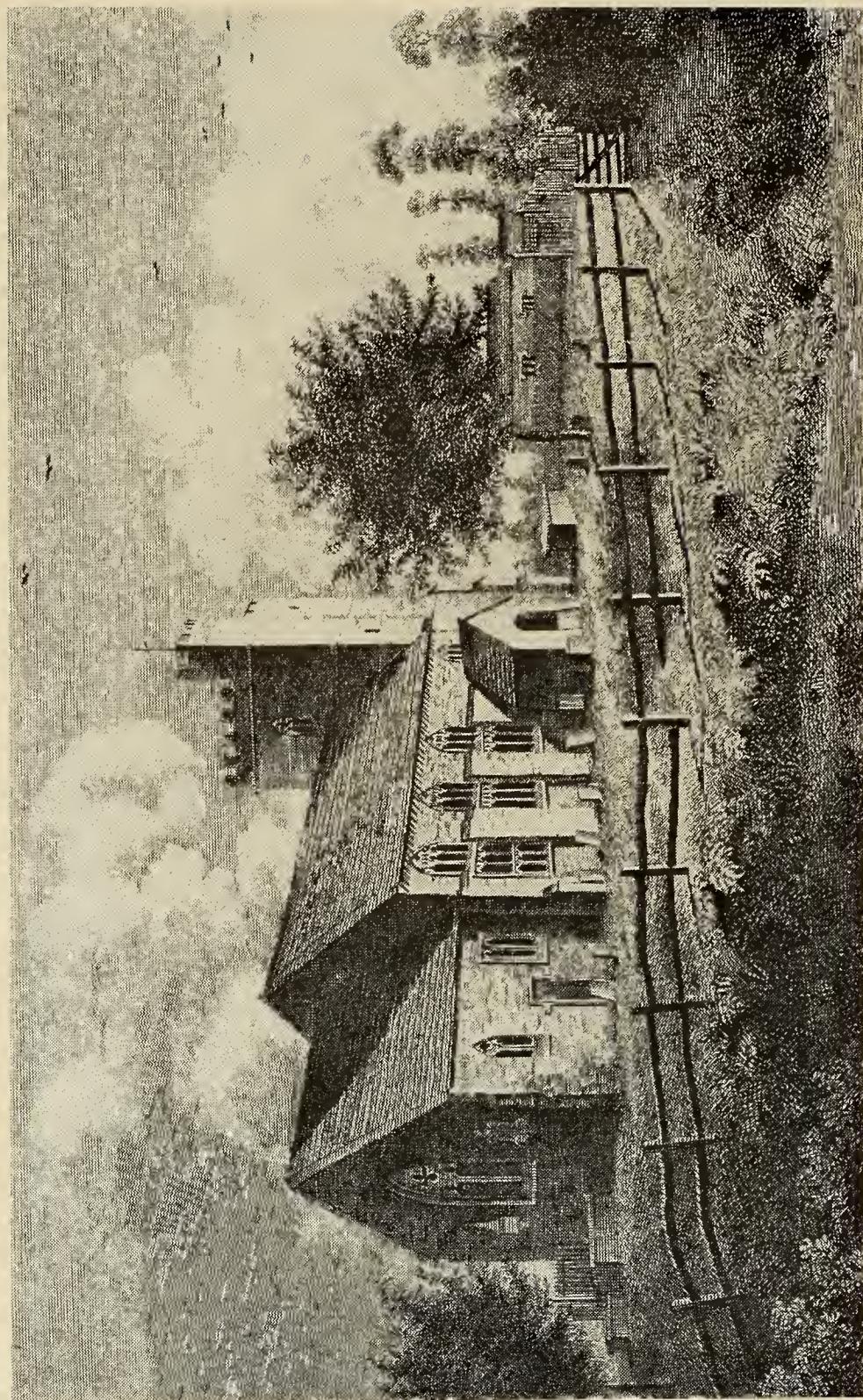
JOHN STEPHENS, Baron of Lewynesmede, by feudal tenure, was Member of Parliament for Bristol,<sup>2</sup> in the reign of King Richard II, and Mayor of Bristol 1403, in the reign of King Henry IV, shortly after the rise of the House of Lancaster. In 1387, he became executor of the estate of Walter Stoderley, Esq., of Bristol, and guardian of the latter's son; and at the same time executor, together with Sir Philip Sherrer, of the will of Thomas Clark, of Bristol.<sup>3</sup> He succeeded to the lordship of Lewynesmede<sup>4</sup> by the will of its holder, the Rev. Elias Spelly, who as a priest of the Church was without heirs by descent. This will, which included other lands, provided legacies for Thomas Colston, and Nicholas le Clerk, understood to have been kinsmen of the Spelly family. He was executor of the will of John Castel, of Bristol, in 1401, through which he and his son John, called "the younger" received inheritances.<sup>5</sup> The Bristol records of 1407 show that he then held property in that municipality in addition to his baronial estates.<sup>6</sup> Two years later his wife Margaret, daughter of Robert Didbrok, of Bristol, inherited under the will of her father.<sup>7</sup> In the next year he was executor of the will of John Bassett.<sup>8</sup> His wife is referred to as living as late as 1417. He had issue;

- I. JOHN, of whom presently.
- II. A daughter, who married —— Clyve, of Bristol, and had issue;
  - 1. John, who inherited certain landed property in Bristol, from his grandfather, after whom he was named, and died 1430.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. <sup>2</sup> Williams' Parl. Hist. co. Glouc., 52. <sup>3</sup> Bristol Wills, 25. <sup>4</sup> Ibid, 60. <sup>5</sup> Ibid, 28. <sup>6</sup> Bristol Wills, 60. <sup>7</sup> Ibid. <sup>8</sup> Ibid, 60.

<sup>9</sup> Bristol Wills, 117. Note: There appears at this period as witness to the Bristol wills





St. MICHAEL's CHURCH  
Eastington, Gloucestershire

JOHN STEPHENS, Baron of Lewynesmede, flourished in the reign of King Henry V, as recorded in contemporaneous documents. He made benefactions to the Church. Marrying, as appears, Alice ——,<sup>1</sup> he had a son;

THOMAS STEPHENS, Esq., whose early life was associated with the French wars of King Henry V. He was a Member of the Parliament of 1422 at the accession of King Henry VI, when the Duke of Gloucester was appointed Protector of England, and of the Parliament of 1430 at the time of the capture of Joan of Arc; and also, as appears of the Parliaments of 1400, 1423, 1427, 1432, and 1442,<sup>2</sup> and had issue;

JOHN STEPHENS, Esq., who took part in the turmoil ending the Wars of the Roses, was Member of Parliament for Bristol in the reign of King Henry VII,<sup>3</sup> and had issue;

HENRY STEPHENS, Esq., of Frocester, co. Gloucester, who flourished in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, the period of the Reformation of the Church of England.<sup>4</sup> He married a daughter and coheiress of Edward Lugg, Esq., of Lugwardine, co. Hereford, of

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the Rev. Elias Stevens, whose exact relationship to the family is not distinct. He was a bachelor of laws, probably of the University of Cambridge, and had become a priest of the Church. In accordance with the custom of that day he is called "Sir Elias Stevens." He held the dignified position of Canon of the Cathedral of Wells. His presence in Bristol in connection with wills was on June 28, 1441 and in September of the same year. On the first occasion his name is spelled Stevens, and on the second Stephens. A contemporaneous spelling is Stevyns. *Ibid.* 130.

<sup>1</sup> Nothing of her family name is found. But as "Alice Stephens" she appears in legal documents.

<sup>2</sup> Williams' Parliamentary Hist. co. Gloucester, 185.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Bentham's Baronets, Vol. IV, 265. He was probably named for Henry VII or VIII. Sir Robert Atkins in his History of co. Gloucester begins his reference to the family back of Henry of Frocester by saying that it was of "very ancient establishment in that county".

the elder branch of the family of Legge or De La Lega, now represented by the Earls of Dartmouth. Dying in

1552, he was buried in the Church of St. Peter at Frocester.<sup>2</sup> His will which was dated January 9, 1552, was proved March 16th of that year. He had issue;

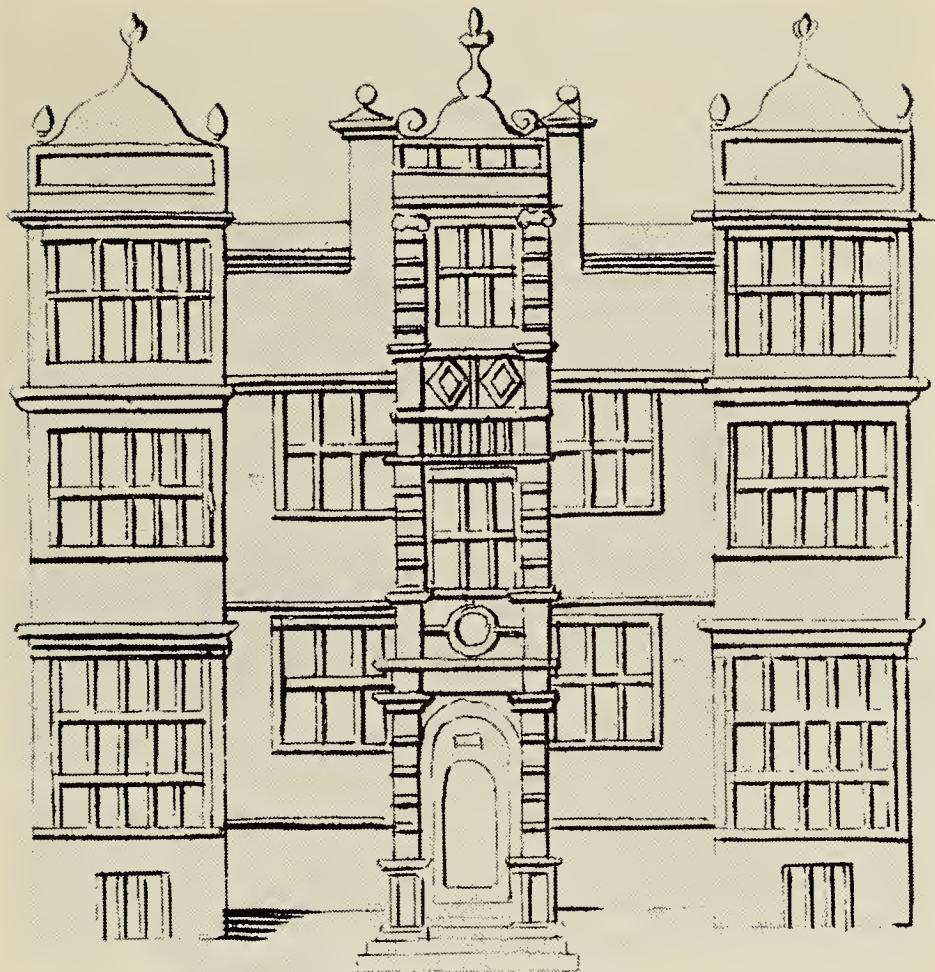


ARMS OF LUGG OF LUGWARDINE,<sup>1</sup> 1495

- I. EDWARD, his heir, of whom presently.
- II. Walter, of Frocester, who died 1565, and whose will dated January 7, 1558, was proved January 30, 1565 by his brother Edward.
- III. Richard, of the Middle Temple, London, Barrister at Law, who married October 3, 1561, Dorothy Miles, who was buried at Eastington, March 3, 1571. He was buried at Eastington, August 8, 1577. His will dated December 29, 1572, was proved November 21, 1577.
- IV. William, of the Inner Temple, London, who had patronage of the livings of Illsington, co. Devon,

<sup>1</sup> Lugg Arms. Gules on a bend between two cotices argent a bendlet wavy azure. Crest: Out of a ducal coronet a pelican's head vulning between two wings proper.

<sup>2</sup> Nichol's Hist. co. Leic. Vol I. Part 2, Page 586. Correspondence of the writer with the Vicar of Frocester, (1904) failed to locate the site of the tomb of Henry Stephens, but brought out the fact that several of the family are buried there, as well as at Eastington which is about eleven miles distant.



#### FRONT ELEVATION OF EASTINGTON MANOR HOUSE

From a rough pencil drawing engraved in Fosbrook's History of Gloucester. The manor house, which extended back, and which was characterized by the wide windows of the Elizabethan period, was burned in 1778—this being the only representation of it in existence.



and Stonehouse, co. Gloucester. His will, dated September 18, was proved October 27, 1565 by his brother-in-law, William Fowler, Gent.

- V. Robert, of London, who died 1592, whose will dated December 31, 1592, was proved January 9, 1593, by William Fowler, Gent.
- VI. John, of Frocester, who married ——, and died 1558. His will dated April 10, 1557, was proved by his wife March 1558.
- VII. Alice, who married before 1565, William Fowler, Gent., of Stonehouse, co. Gloucester.
- VIII. Ann, who married —— Clutterbuck.

EDWARD STEPHENS, Esq., lord of the manor of Eastington, acquired the manors of Eastington and Alker-ton, co. Gloucester,<sup>1</sup> 1573. The estate of Eastington had been held during the Middle Ages by the De Molends and the De Balurns, and it is recorded that Henry de Newmarch had it in succession to Thurston Fitz Rolf. It passed into possession of the celebrated Edward de Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and his wife the grand-daughter of Prince George Plantaganet, Duke of Clarence, niece of Edward IV, and Richard III; and through Lord Stafford to Edward Stephens in the fifteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Edward Stephens erected a manor house there of the Elizabethan style.<sup>2</sup> Of this house only a rude drawing of a portion of the front remains, the building having been destroyed by fire in 1778, at which time perished the oldest archives of this family, which had been

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<sup>1</sup> Nichol's Hist., co. Leic. I, 586.

<sup>2</sup> The illustration is from Fosbrook's Abstracts of Records and MSS., co. Glouc. 405. The peaceful reign of Elizabeth was a great period in the erection of manor houses, because it marked the transition from feudal castles to homes combining dignity and comfort.

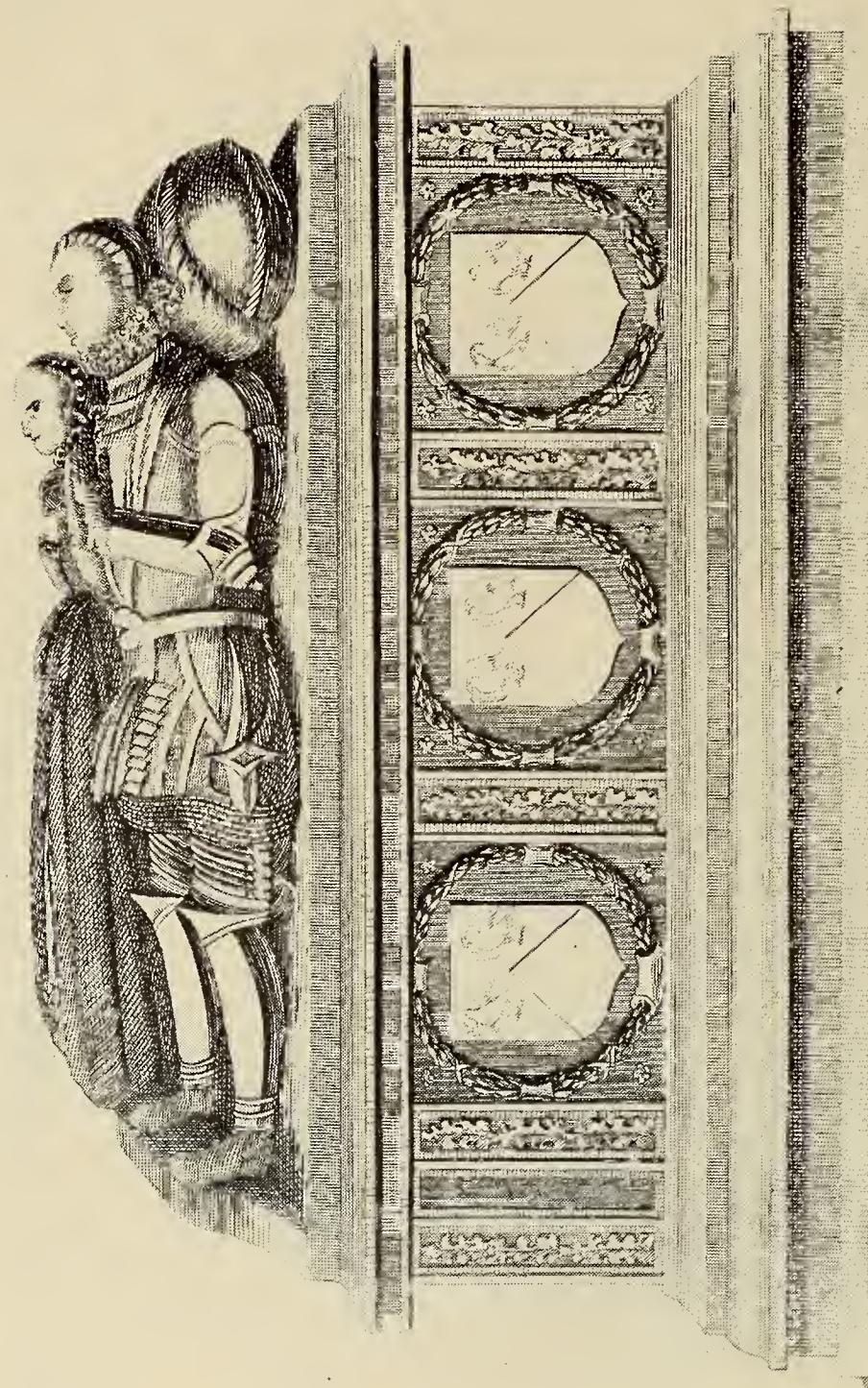
there deposited. Eastington manor includes the village of that name. The parish church has been restored in modern times.<sup>1</sup> In the churchyard Whitefield when curate did his first open-air preaching, the sacred edifice being incapable of holding his hearers. The most notable feature of the interior of the church is the altar tomb<sup>2</sup> with recumbent effigies of Edward Stephens, and his wife Joan, and showing sculptured the family coat of arms. Edward Stephens in 1557 built Chavenage Hall in his manor of Horsley, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire not far distant from Eastington.<sup>3</sup> The date and his initials and those of his wife are carved over the entrance doorway. The house, whose front is in the form of the letter E in honor of Queen Elizabeth, stretches back in a series of buildings partly erected since his time. A demi eagle, the crest of the family, forms a finial over the porch, and over one of the west gables. In the great hall, at the left of the entrance, is paneling of the Elizabethan period. The windows have coats of arms in the stained glass, and the walls were in his day hung with armor. A chimney piece shows carvings of the Stephens arms; and these arms and the arms of Fowler are elsewhere displayed in the house. The covered ceiling of the minstrel gallery is finely paneled. The original dining room has paneling of the date 1627. In the bed rooms is some good tapestry. The bed room used by Sir Philip Sidney has another ancient chimney piece. The chapel was built of materials from the ruins of Horsley Priory near by. Edward Stephens married Joan, daughter of Richard Fowler, Gent., of Stonehouse, co. Gloucester,

<sup>1</sup> The engraving represents the church as it was when the Stephens family were lords of the manor.

<sup>2</sup> The illustration is from Plate XLII, Nichols' Hist. of Leic., Part II, 588.

<sup>3</sup> For plan of Chavenage House, see Transactions and History of Glouc., A Soc., XXII.





TOMB IN EASTINGTON CHURCH, OF EDWARD STEPHENS, LORD OF THE MANOR OF EASTINGTON, AND JOAN FOWLER HIS WIFE  
He is shown in armor, with ruff, and close-fitting cap for use under helmet. The family arms are carved on the sides

who died August 5, 1587. His will dated August 13, was proved November 27, 1587, by his brother-in-law, William Fowler, Gent., and his son Richard. He died October 22, 1587, aged sixty-four, and was buried in Eastington church, where his tomb, already referred to, exists to this day, in fair preservation. He had issue;

- I. RICHARD, of Eastington, his heir, of whom presently.
- II. James, of Eastington, who married Catherine, widow of — Sandford, and daughter of Robert Browning, Esq., of Cowley, co. Gloucester, and died February 19, 1590, his line eventually becoming extinct.<sup>1</sup>
- III. THOMAS, of Lypiatt Park, born 1558, of whom subsequently. See Line II.
- IV. Elizabeth, who married Thomas Higges, Esq., of Cheltenham, co. Gloucester, and was buried at Eastington, December 2, 1581.
- V. Margaret, who married John Parker, Esq., of Barnwood.
- VI. Alice, who married — Willcox, Esq.

RICHARD STEPHENS, Esq., of Eastington, Alkerton, Fretherne and Horsley, co. Gloucester, succeeded his father in the manors, and married first Margaret, daughter of Edward St. Leo, Esq., of Knighton, co. Wilts, and secondly Ann, daughter of — Kery who survived him and was buried at Eastington. He died December, 1599, and was buried at Eastington. By his first wife he had issue;

- I. Edward, baptised November 26, 1587, who died 1590, in childhood.

<sup>1</sup> Burke's Landed Gentry, II, 1915, gives the date of his death October 19, 1594. Burke's Extinct Baronetcies, 506, gives it February 19, 1590.

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- II. NATHANIEL, born 1589, and baptised May 20, 1589, of whom presently.
- III. Johanna, baptised June 30, 1583.<sup>1</sup>
- IV. Hester, who married —— Warburton.
- V. Sarah, who married John Giles, Esq., of London.
- VI. Abigail, who married William Hill, Esq., Auditor of the Exchequer, of King James I.

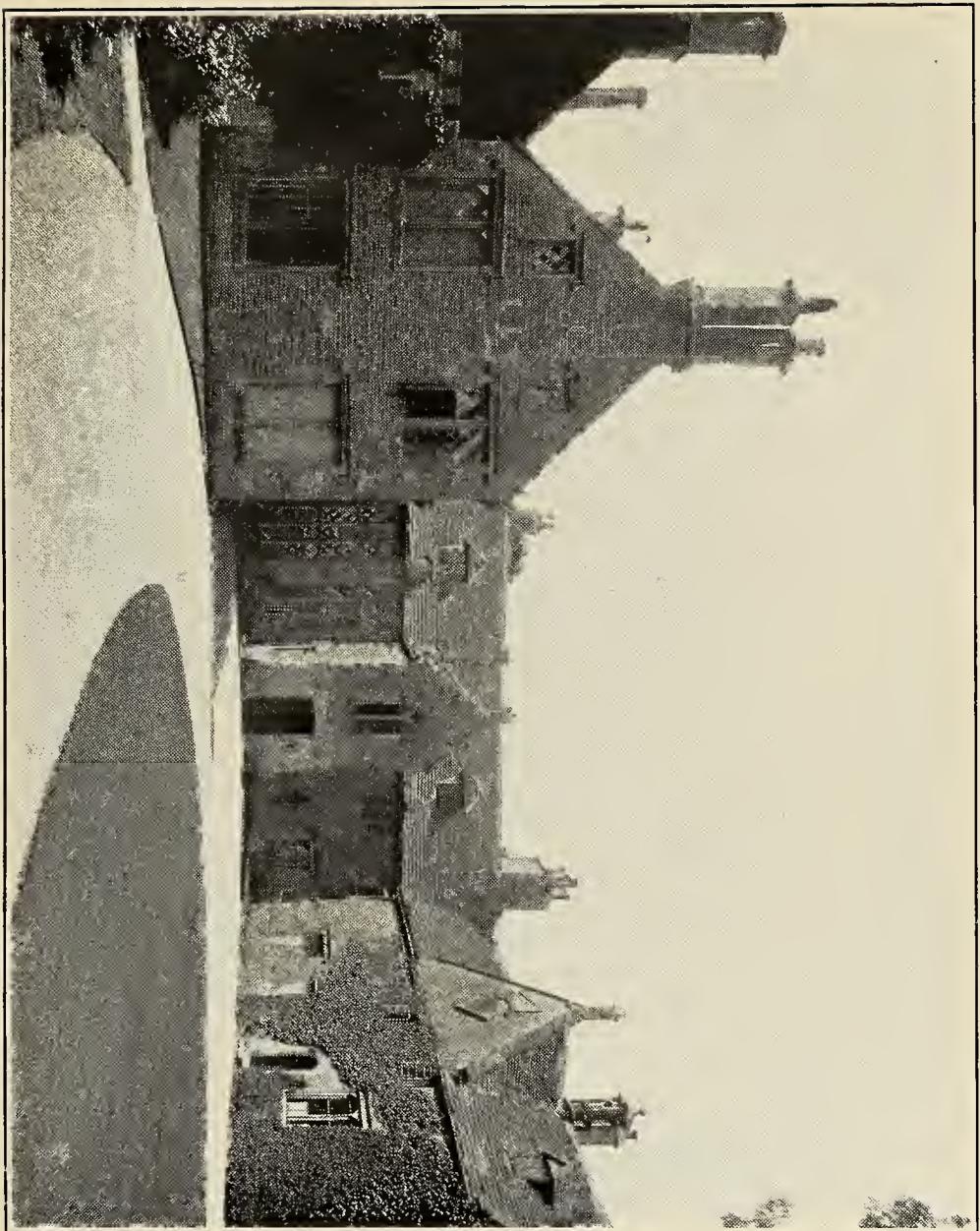
NATHANIEL STEPHENS, Esq., of Eastington and other manors, co. Gloucester, was Knight of the Shire in Parliament together with Sir Robert Poyntz, Knt., 1628-9, and 1640-1648. He married Catherine, daughter of Robert Beale, Esq., of Prior's Marston, co. Warwick, Secretary of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth. She died February 22, 1632. He raised a regiment of horse of which he was Colonel, and fought on the Parliament side in the Civil War in the time of King Charles I. He was buried May 30, 1660. According to the "Parliamentary History of the County of Gloucester",<sup>2</sup> the fatal illness which attacked him "a few months after his acquiescence in the King's death gave rise to the legend of Chavenage", the story of the Stephens family ghost—which is one of the best known in England, has been many times told,<sup>3</sup> and was, so late as 1845, the subject of a poem by the Rev. R. W. Huntley of Boxwell, entitled "Chavenage". The story is that when the lord of the manor died and all were assembled for his funeral a hearse drew up at the door of the manor house driven by a headless man, and the Squire was seen to rise from his coffin, and enter the hearse after a profound

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<sup>1</sup> In the English portion of the genealogy the English custom is followed of first giving the names of all sons, and then of all daughters without reference to age. The records preclude doing otherwise.

<sup>2</sup> W. R. Williams, p. 98.

<sup>3</sup> See Trimbe's Abbeys, Castles and and Ancient Halls of England, Vol. II, 455, 457.



ENTRANCE COURT OF CHAVENAGE MANOR HOUSE

Over the door on each side are initials of Edward Stephens, of Eastington, and Joan Fowler, his wife ; and the date 1557. Above the front gable is the eagle of the Stephens crest, in stone



reverence to the headless personage, who as he drove away assumed the shape of the martyr King, Charles I—this being regarded as a retribution for the Squire's disloyalty to the King. And thereafter till the line became extinct, whenever the head of the family died, the same ghost of the King appeared to carry him off. "So it is very doubtful", says a writer, "if any of that line were ever comfortably buried, or that even their bones could be found in England—they having gone away body and soul with King Charles".<sup>1</sup> So runs the legend. Col. Nathaniel Stephens had issue;

- I. Henry, who died unmarried at the University of Oxford, during the life time of his father.
- II. RICHARD, born 1620, the heir, of whom presently.
- III. Robert, born 1622, sergeant-at-law, who died unmarried, November 4, 1675.

<sup>1</sup> In Gloucestershire Notes and Queries edited by Rev. B. H. Blacker is a reference to this legend under the heading "Chavenage Manor House" as follows: Vol. I, 41. "The late Mr. Timbes furnished some particulars of Chavenage near Tetbury, in his 'Abbeys, Castles and Ancient Halls of England and Wales', 2d ed. 1872, Vol. II, pp. 455, 457. It was the residence of the family of Stephens of Eastington and Lypiatt, owners of many other manors in Gloucestershire; and it appears that Nathaniel Stephens, then in Parliament for the county, was keeping the festival of Christmas, 1648, in his old manor house. He had shown much irresolution in deciding upon sacrificing the life of King Charles I, and was wavering on the question, when Ireton, who had been dispatched to whet his almost blunted purpose arrived at Chavenage, and sat up, it is said, all night in obtaining from him a reluctant acquiesance. In May 1649, Stephens was seized with a fatal sickness, and died the second of that month, expressing his regret for having participated in the execution of the King. So far, circumstances have the semblance of fact; but on these a legendary tale has been founded, which the superstitious and the believers in supernatural appearances are now only beginning to disbelieve. When all the relatives had assembled and their several well-known equipages were crowding the courtyard to proceed with the obsequies the household were surprised to observe that another coach, ornamented with even more than the gorgeous embellishments of that splendid period, and drawn by black horses, was approaching the porch in great solemnity. When it arrived, the door of the vehicle opened in some unseen manner, and clad in his shroud, the shade of the lord of the manor glided into the carriage, and the door instantly closing upon him, the coach rapidly withdrew from the house; not however with such speed but there was time to perceive that the driver was a beheaded man arrayed in royal vestments with the Garter upon his leg, and the star of that illustrious order upon his breast. No sooner had the coach arrived at the gateway of the manor-court than the whole appearance vanished in flames of fire. The story further maintains that to this day, every Lord of Chavenage, dying in the manor house, takes his departure in the same strange manner". This is the family ghost story.

IV. Nathaniel, who died in infancy.

V. Margaret, who married 1638, Sir John Fitz James, Knt., of Sutton, co. Devon.

VI. Edith, who died unmarried September 8, 1632, at the age of fourteen.

VII. Catherine, born 1618, who married Thomas Bloomfield, Esq., of London.

VIII. Sarah, born 1623, who married Sir John Stawell, Knt., of Bovey Tracy, co. Devon.

IX. Hannah, baptised April 11, 1626, who married Peregrine Palmer, Esq., of Fairfield, co. Somerset.

X. Abigail, baptised September 25, 1628, who married Sir Edward Harley, K. B., of Brompton Brian, co. Hereford, Member of Parliament for the shire, in the Parliament which restored King Charles II, She had issue;



ARMS OF HARLEY  
Earls of Oxford and Mortimer.<sup>1</sup>

and later for Radnor. In 1700 he became

<sup>1</sup> Arms of Harley. Or a bend cotised sable. Crest: A castle triple towered argent—out of the middle tower a demi lion issuant gules. Supporters: Two angels proper habited and wings displayed or. Motto: Virtute et fide. Over the shield the coronet of an Earl.

Speaker of the House of Commons, and a member of the Privy Council, and in 1710 Chancellor of the Exchequer and a cabinet minister of the crown. He was created May 24, 1711, Earl of Oxford, Earl of Mortimer, and Baron Hartley of Wigmore, co. Hereford.<sup>1</sup> In the same year he was made Lord High Treasurer of England. His room is still to be seen at the Stephens manor house of Chavenage. He married first Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Foley, Esq., of Whitly Court, co. Worcester, and secondly Sarah, daughter of Thomas Middleton, Esq., and died May 21, 1724, having had by his first wife issue;

- (a) Edward, second Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, who married Lady Henrietta Cavendish, daughter and heiress of John Holles, last Duke of Newcastle, of that family. He died June 6, 1741, leaving an only daughter and heiress, Lady Margaret Cavendish, who married in 1734, William, second Duke of Portland; when the earldom passed to his uncle Edward.
- (b) Lady Abigail, who married George, Earl of Kinnoul, and died 1750.
- (c) Elizabeth, who married Peregrine Hyde, Duke of Leeds.

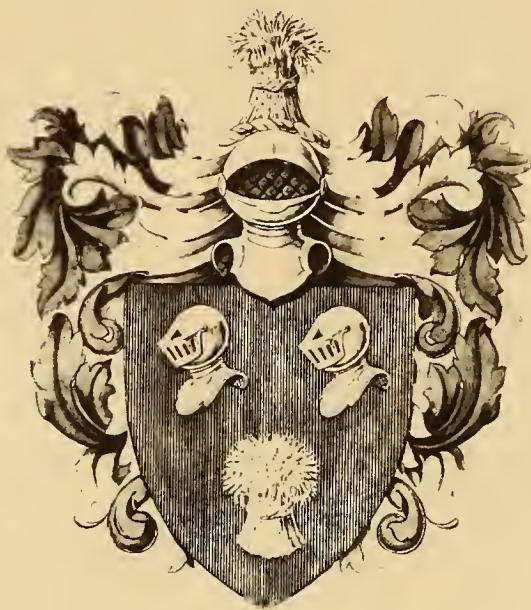
2. Edward, third Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, who had issue;

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<sup>1</sup> Burke's Extinct Peerage.

- (a) Edward, fourth Earl, who left no heirs.
- (b) John, D.D., sometime Dean of Windsor, then Lord Bishop of Hereford, whose son, Edward, became fifth Earl, and whose grandson Alfred was sixth and last Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, of this family, dying childless. The earldom of Oxford had previously been in the family of De Vere.

RICHARD STEPHENS, Esq., of Eastington, and other manors, co. Gloucester, married July, 1654, Anne, daughter of Sir Hugh Cholmley, Knight and Baronet, of Whitby, co. York, M. P. for Scarborough, who distinguished himself as a royalist during the civil war in the time of King Charles I, suffered the siege and capture of his castle, and was banished, but later restored. Richard Stephens who qualified as a Knight of the proposed Order of the Royal Oak, 1660,<sup>2</sup> died March 4, 1678, and his wife 1712. His



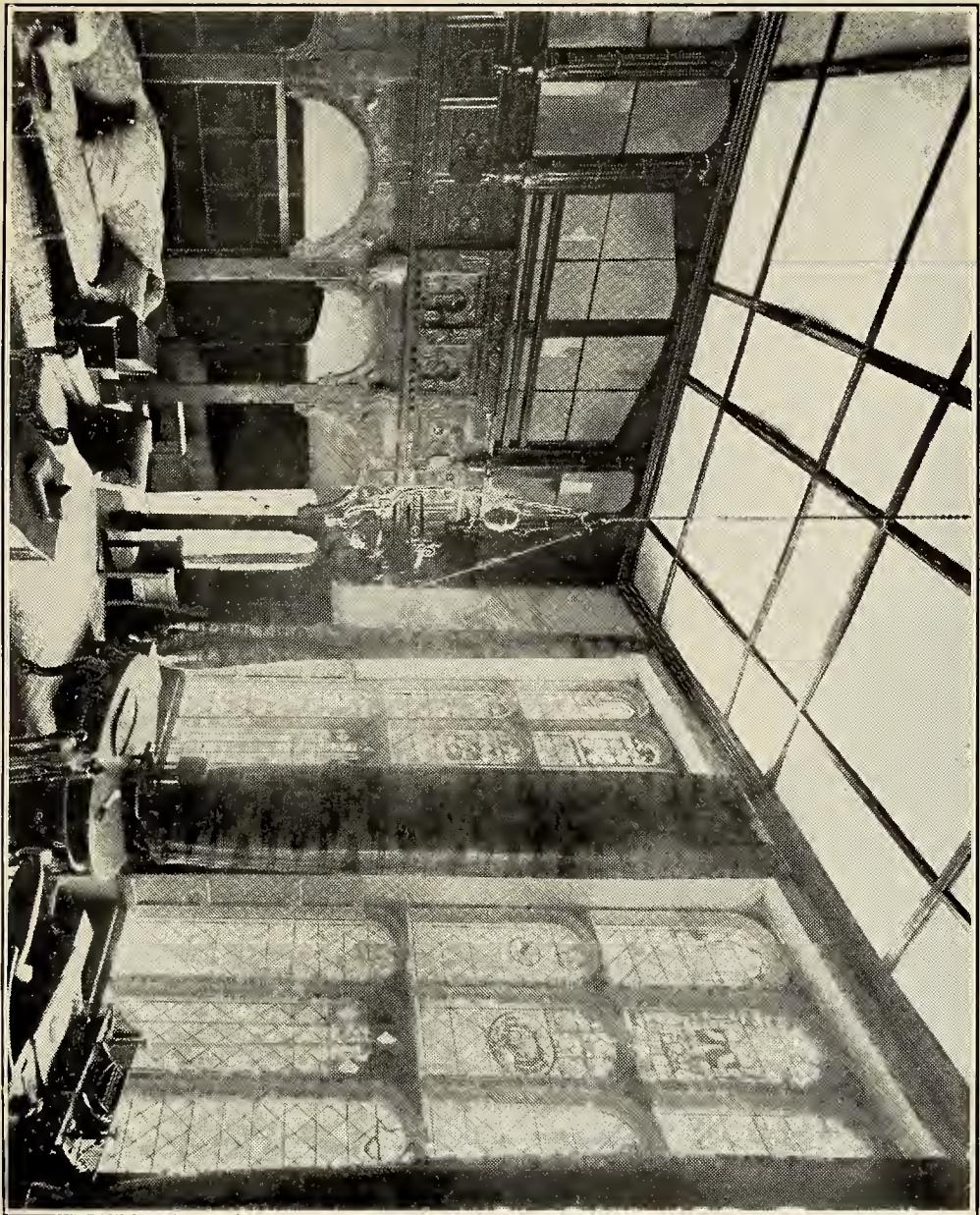
ARMS OF SIR HUGH CHOLMLEY, BART.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cholmley Arms. Gules two helmets in chief argent, garnished or, in base a garb of the last. Crest: A garb or. Over the shield is the helmet of a baronet.

<sup>2</sup> Forsbrook's Hist. Glouc. I, 318.

### GREAT HALL OF CHAVENAGE MANOR HOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Changed but slightly since erected in 1557 by Edward Stephens, of Eastington. The oak screen bears his initials, and a conventional falcon is carved at top of one of the columns, and shown in one of the windows. In the time of the Stephens occupation the walls were hung with tapestry and old armor.





will dated January 9, 1675, was proved March 26, 1680, by his brother-in-law Sir Hugh Cholmley, Bart. He had issue;

- I. NATHANIEL, born 1655, his heir, of whom presently.
- II. Richard, of the Middle Temple, London, Barrister at Law, who died childless at the age of twenty-five.
- III. Cholmley, who died at nineteen, in the East Indies, childless.
- IV. Francis, who died childless.
- V. Henry, who died at fifteen, in Smyrna.
- VI. Robert, born 1664, of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law, Solicitor of Customs to Queen Anne and King George I, Historiographer Royal of England by appointment of the King. He studied at Lincoln College, Oxford<sup>1</sup> and was called to the bar in 1689. He was one of the founders of the Society of Antiquaries, of England, and published as editor, "Letters and Reminiscences of Lord Chancellor Bacon". His catalogue of letters and papers of Lord Bacon are preserved in the British Museum. Having married Mary, daughter of Sir Hugh Cholmley, Bart., of Whitby, co. York, widow of Nathaniel Cholmley, Esq., of Leicestershire, he died childless at the age of sixty-seven at Gravesend, November 9, 1732, and was buried at Eastington.<sup>2</sup>
- VII. Catherine, who died unmarried.
- VIII. Ann, who married Sir Charles Page or Pye, of Clifton Camwell, co. Stafford.

<sup>1</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxon.* 1500-1714, IV, 1420.

<sup>2</sup> Gentleman's Magazine 1732, p. 1082; *Dictionary of National Biography*, LIV, 180; *Archæologica*, Vol. I, p. XXXVII; *Bigland's Gloucestershire*, I, 541.

IX. Elizabeth, who married John Packer, Esq., of Shellingford, co. Berks, and had issue;

1. Robert Packer, who married a daughter of Sir Henry Winchcombe, and left a daughter who married —— Hartley, Esq., leaving besides Mary and David Hartley, Member of Parliament, a son Winchcombe Hartley, Member of Parliament for Buckinghamshire.
2. Anne, who married Sir Edward Hames, of Westminster.

NATHANIEL STEPHENS, Esq., of Eastington and Chavenage, co. Gloucester, was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, 1698. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Pemberton, K. B., Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of England, who died 1742 holding Eastington and Chavenage in dower. In 1732 he died, having had issue;

- I. Richard, who died childless, 1771.<sup>1</sup>
- II. Rev. Robert, M. A., born 1704, Rector of Eastington, and lord of the manor, who died childless, leaving the estates to Henry.
- III. HENRY, born 1710, heir to his brother, of whom presently.
- IV. Nathaniel, who married Elizabeth Watkins, and died childless, 1776.
- V. Ann, who married John Jacob, of Hullavington, co. Wiltshire, leaving no heirs.
- VI. Elizabeth, who died unmarried.
- VII. Mary, who died unmarried.
- VIII. Catherine, who died unmarried.

<sup>1</sup> Forsbrook says of him, "A gentleman of great abilities and very elegant in person and manners". Hist. Glouc. I, 317.

## IX. Frances, who died unmarried.

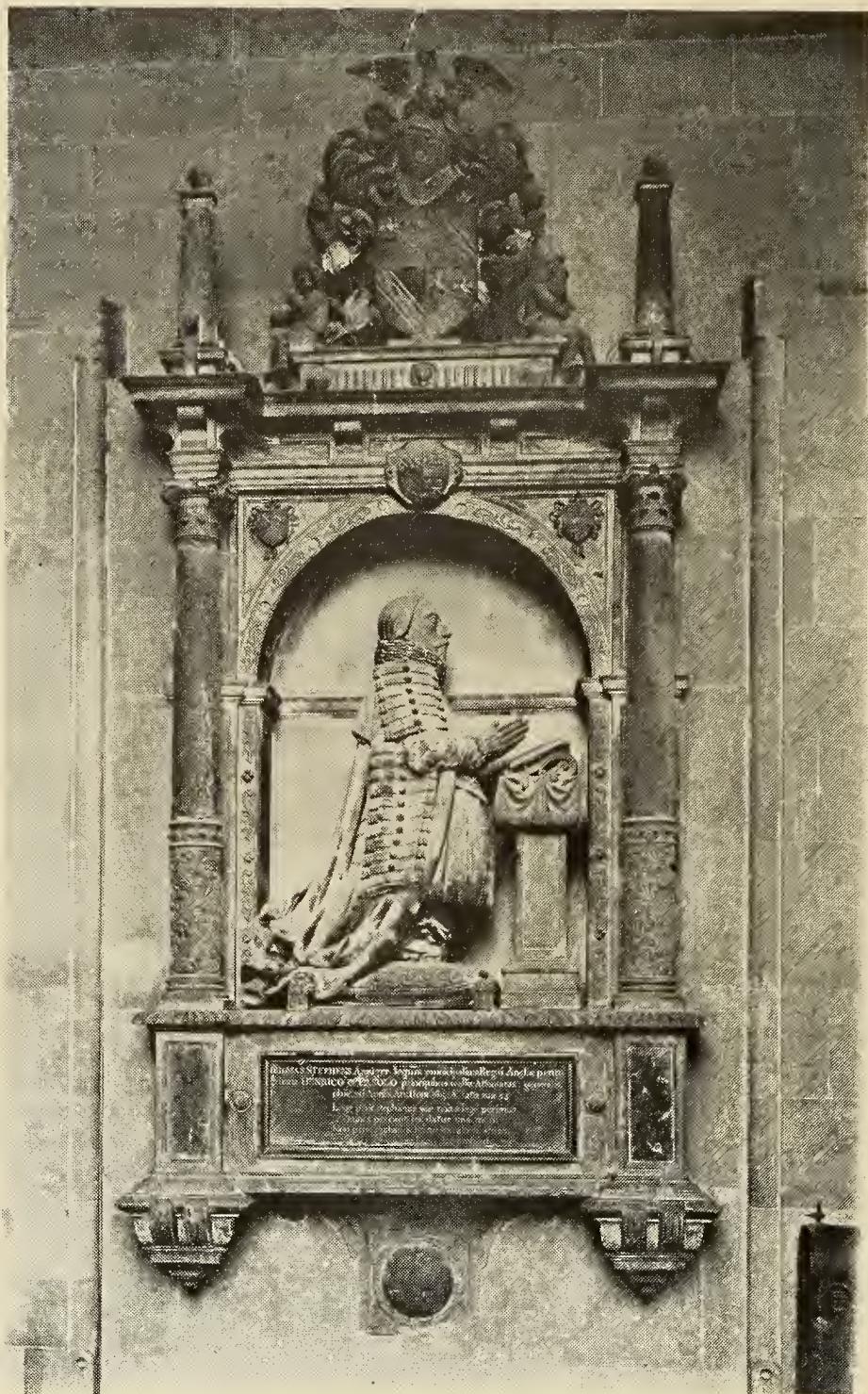
HENRY STEPHENS, Esq., of Eastington, co. Gloucester, married Ann, daughter of the Rev. Richard Huntley, Rector of Boxwell, co. Gloucester. He died at Chavenage, St. Paul's Day, January 25, 1795, being the last male representative of the elder line of this family; and was buried in Eastington Church, where is a mural monument erected to his memory by his widow. He left his landed possessions, after his widow's death, to the descendants of his aunt Elizabeth Packer, daughter of Richard Stephens and Ann Cholmley. This Elizabeth Stephens had married her cousin John Packer, Esq., of Shellingford Manor, co. Berks, whose mother was a Stephens. And their daughter, Anne, married Sir Edward Hames, of Westminster. The sole issue of this marriage was Temperance, a ward in Chancery. She eloped with John Willis, Esq., of Redingfield Hall, Eye, co. Suffolk. Their only surviving son Henry was first entered as an officer in the Royal Navy, but afterwards took Holy Orders, and became Rector of Little Sodbury, and Vicar of Wapley, co. Gloucester, the manor of which, Ralph Fitz Stephen had given to the Church at the death of King Henry II. He married Jane, daughter of Richard Lubbock, Esq., of North Walsham, co. Norfolk. They had a numerous family, and their son, Henry Hames Willis, inherited Chavenage on the death of the widow of Henry Stephens in 1801. In accordance with the provisions of his cousin's will, the heir through this female line was obliged to drop his own name, and adopt by royal license, the name and arms of Stephens only. He became a monk, and died at the Monastery of La Treppe, Normandy, 1822, making the children of his sister Mrs. Richmond Shute, his heirs. The manor thus went first to his nephew Henry Richmond Shute, who died

unmarried the following year, and then to his niece, Alice Elizabeth Shute, who married the Rev. Maurice Fitz Gerald Townsend, J. P., and D. L., of Castle Townsend, co. Cork, Ireland, and Vicar of Thornbury, co. Gloucester. The Rev. Mr. Townsend took by royal license, December 30, 1826, the name and arms of Stephens, in place of his own. He had a son Henry John, and two daughters. Chavenage, however, passed into the hands of William Holford, of Weston Bert, and was sold by him in 1891, to Captain Lowsley Williams, the present Squire. Eastington House had been destroyed by fire long before.<sup>1</sup> So ended the connection of the elder Stephens line with the old estates in Gloucestershire. Line II became that of the male representatives of the family, in eldest succession.

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<sup>1</sup> Transactions Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society IV, 167, 169. Henry John Stephens, son of Rev. Maurice Fitz Gerald Townsend, who took the name of Stephens, was born 1827, married 1864, Jane Adeliza Clementina Hussey de Burgh, and died 1869. His sisters were Geraldine Henrietta, who married Pierrepont Mundy, Major General Royal Artillery, and Alice Gertrude, who married the Rev. Courtenay John Vernon, third son of the first Lord Lyvedon and Rector of Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire.





MEMORIAL TABLET OF ATTORNEY GENERAL THOMAS STEPHENS  
IN STROUD CHURCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
From a Photograph taken for this Work

## LINE II.

THOMAS STEPHENS, Esq., of Lypiatt Park, and the manor of Little Sodbury, co. Gloucester, third son of Edward Stephens, first lord of the manor of Eastington, of this family, as before mentioned,<sup>1</sup> was a Barrister at Law of the Middle Temple, London. He became an official of the Court of King James I, being appointed Attorney General to Prince Henry and Prince Charles, successively Princes of Wales, the latter ascending the throne as King Charles I. He acquired extensive estates in Gloucestershire near the other family manors, and became the head of a new branch of the house, which has now succeeded to the family honors as the male representatives of the ancient line. He married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of John Stone, Esq., of London, and dying April 26, 1613, was buried in Stroud Church, Gloucestershire.<sup>2</sup> In transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society, is an interesting description of his mural memorial;<sup>3</sup> "It is architecturally a Jacobean frame monument, with a figure in attitude of prayer—of alabaster, mostly painted over, and nearly life size. He wears tight slashed doublet, buttoned up the chest, gallic hose, stuffed and slashed, bows beside the knees, stockings. Over all a furred, loose mantle with large loose sleeves. The under sleeves of

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<sup>1</sup> See Line I, p. 27.

<sup>2</sup> There was a portrait of Attorney General Stephens in possession of Lady Bath in 1648. It was engraved by Marshall XXV, 157, 158. See also Bigland's Historical and Gen. Collections of Glouc., IX, and Rudder's Hist. Glouc., 714.

<sup>3</sup> XXV, 157, 158.

doublet tight slashed, and terminating in ruffs. On the head a close fitting cap (legal coif). He kneels on an embroidered and tasseled cushion, praying at a cushioned desk. There is a single paneled round arch forming a niche between two disengaged classic columns painted black, and having composite capitals rising from a deep plinth, and in turn supporting an elaborate cornice bearing in centre a crested and mantled shield between two rectangular pillars, each topped with a golden ball. At foot of shield, right and left diminutive figures, a cupid and a bearded male perhaps intended to represent Time. The arms on the shield are quarterly Stephens and Lugg (the arms of his father and mother), with the Stephens crest of a demi eagle displayed surmounting the helmet of an esquire. On the central voussoir of the arch below, the arms of Stephens are shown impaling Stone (his wife's arms), azure a fess argent, between three lions (probably heraldic tigers) statant guardant or.<sup>1</sup> In spandrels of the arch each of these coats occurs separately. The inscription is in Latin. The coloring and gilding of the monument are well preserved. The location is on the last wall of the south transept of the church". The Attorney General's will, which was dated March 8, 1612, a codicil being added in April, was proved by his wife November 24, 1613. He had issue;

- I. SIR EDWARD, a minor in 1590, his heir, of whom presently.
- II. John, of the Middle Temple, London, Barrister at Law. Was a student at Lincoln College, Oxford. He became Recorder of Bristol and was Member

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<sup>1</sup> The nature of these arms is uncertain. Sir Philip Stephens, Bart., quartered them, but they are open to question as to form.

of Parliament for Tewkesbury, 1645, for Gloucestershire, 1659, and for Bristol, 1660.<sup>1</sup> He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of —— Ram, of Essexshire, who died childless; secondly, Grace, daughter of John Brown, of Frampton, co. Dorset; thirdly, Anne, daughter and coheir of John Moulson, of Hargrave, co. Chester; and fourthly, Hester, daughter and coheir of —— Barnes, of Alborough Hatch, in Barking, co. Essex. His first child was by his second wife, his other children by his third wife. He died August 4, 1679, and was buried at Stroud Church, having had issue;

1. Grace, who married George Tipping, Esq., of Draycot, co. Oxford.
2. Thomas, Member of Parliament for Gloucestershire, 1695-8,<sup>2</sup> who married Anne, daughter of Thomas Child, Esq., of Northwick, co. Worcester, and died 1708, having had issue;
  - (a) Thomas, of Bisley Manor, co. Gloucester, Member of Parliament for Gloucester, 1713-20, who married Anne, daughter of John Neale, Esq., of Deane, co. Bedford, a near relative of the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell, and had besides a son Thomas, Town Clerk of Bristol, who died 1745, and daughters Anne, who died childless, Hester, who mar-

<sup>1</sup> Williams' Parl. Hist. co. Glouc., 58. Williams mistakes this John Stephens for his nephew and namesake, John Stephens, of Guilford.

<sup>2</sup> Williams' Parl. Hist. co. Glouc., 61.

ried William Baghott de la Bere, Esq., of Southam House, co. Gloucester;<sup>1</sup> and an eldest son John, of Lypiatt, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Henry Phill, of London, and died 1778. This John had issue Farington, who was buried at Stroud at the age of twenty, and John, who died childless, with whom the male line in this branch of the family became extinct. He had also daughters Elizabeth and Hester, both of whom died in infancy.

- (b) Edward, who died in infancy.
- (c) Nathaniel, who died at two years of age.
- (d) Ann Mary, who married Sir Edward Fust, Bart., of Hill, co. Gloucester, and died March 3, 1689-90.
- (e) Grace, who died in infancy.
- (f) Catherine, who died at the age of twelve.

3. John, second son of John Stephens above mentioned, died in infancy.
4. John, also died in infancy.
5. Edward, of the Middle Temple, London, Barrister, died unmarried, August, 1674.
6. Anne, who married John de la Bere, Esq., of Southam House, co. Gloucester.

<sup>1</sup>At Southam House are two portraits of the Stephens family—one by Sir Peter Lely, of John Stephens, of Lypiatt Park, Recorder of Bristol, brother of Sir Edward—and one of Edward, son of Thomas Stephens, of Sodbury.

III. Anne, or Elizabeth,<sup>1</sup> daughter of Attorney General Thomas Stevens, married Samuel Codrington, Esq., of Dodrington, among whose descendants was Sir Isaac Heard, Knt., Garter King of Arms.

IV. Mary, married Thomas Shelley, Esq., of Patham, co. Berks.

V. Nathaniel, of Horton and Cherington, co. Gloucester, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Tyringham, Esq., of Weston Farell, co. Northampton, and Barkby, co. Leicester, and dying 1643,<sup>2</sup> had issue.

1. Edward, of Horton, Cherington, and Alderley, co. Gloucester, and of the Middle Temple, London, Barrister at Law, baptized July 25, 1633, who married Mary, daughter of John Raynesford, Esq., of Staverton, co. Northampton, and Wolfhamcote, co. Warwick, elder brother of Sir Richard Raynesford, Knt., Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, who had issue;

(a) Rev. Edward, of Alderley, co. Gloucester, born about 1654, of the Middle Temple, London,



ARMS OF TYRINGHAM.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nichols in Hist. co. Leicester, Vol. I, Part 2, p. 586, calls her Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> Nichols says 1640; Hist. Leic. Vol. I, Part 2, p. 586.

<sup>3</sup> Tyringham Arms. Azure a saltire engrailed argent. Crest: A talbot's head couped gules billettee or.

Barrister at Law, who eventually was ordained a priest of the Church of England.<sup>1</sup> He was an author of note in his time, writing on political and theological subjects, and publishing many books and pamphlets, mostly of a controversial character. His learned work "Liturgy of the Ancients", issued in 1696, was republished in 1848. He married Mary, daughter of the celebrated

Sir Matthew Hale, Knt., Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1660, and Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, 1671. Sir Matthew Hale, whose Gloucestershire residence was near that of the Stephens family, was counsel for Archbishop Laud at his trial. His position, universally recognized to-day as that of one of the greatest jurists of Anglo-Saxon law, needs no mention. With Sir Edward Stephens he was one of the two members



ARMS OF  
CHIEF JUSTICE SIR MATTHEW HALE.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of National Biography, LIV, 170.

<sup>2</sup> Hale Arms. Argent a fesse sable, in chief three cinque foils of the last. Crest: A serpent proper entwined around five arrow shafts or, beaded sable, feathered argent, one in pale, four saltirewise. Motto: Vera sequer. A helmet of Knight's rank.

of Parliament for Gloucestershire, (Knights of the Shire) at the restoration of King Charles II, and he was intimately associated with the Stephens family in the events of that critical period of English history. His grandchildren who were Stephens on the fathers' side, were: John, born July, 1682, who died without male heirs; Elizabeth, who married Garrett Estcourt, Esq., of Cambridge-shire; Rachel, who married the Rev. Robert John Bull, son of the celebrated Bishop Bull; and Hester, who married John Somers, Esq.

- (b) John, born 1652, a merchant in the West Indies, who died childless.
- (c) Thomas, who married Mary Adderley, and had issue; Edward, who died unmarried, and daughters Ann, Susan and Mary.
- (d) Nathaniel, who died unmarried.
- (e) Richard, who died unmarried.
- (f) Robert, who married Elizabeth Uvedale, and had a son Edward who died unmarried.
- (g) Rachel, who died unmarried.
- (h) Catherine, who died unmarried.
- (i) Anne, who died unmarried.
- (j) Mary, who married Robert Uvedale, LL. D., of Ensfield.

(k) Elizabeth, who died unmarried.

2. The Ven. Tyringham, of the Castle, near Leicester, baptized May 29, 1635, Archdeacon of Leicester. He married first Isabel, daughter of George Rayson, Esq., of Leicester, who died 1668, and secondly Milicent, daughter of William Juge, Esq., of Thorpe Constantine, co. Stafford, who died 1721. He died June 1710, and was buried June 21, in St. Mary's Church, Leicester, having by his second wife had issue;

(a) Tyringham, baptized April 30, 1672, an officer in the Admiralty Office, who died June 6, 1710, unmarried.

(b) Walter, born February 27, 1675, who died childless.

(c) Richard, born November 2, 1684, who died childless.

(d) Charles, born September 12, 1686, who died in infancy.

(e) Thomas, who died childless.

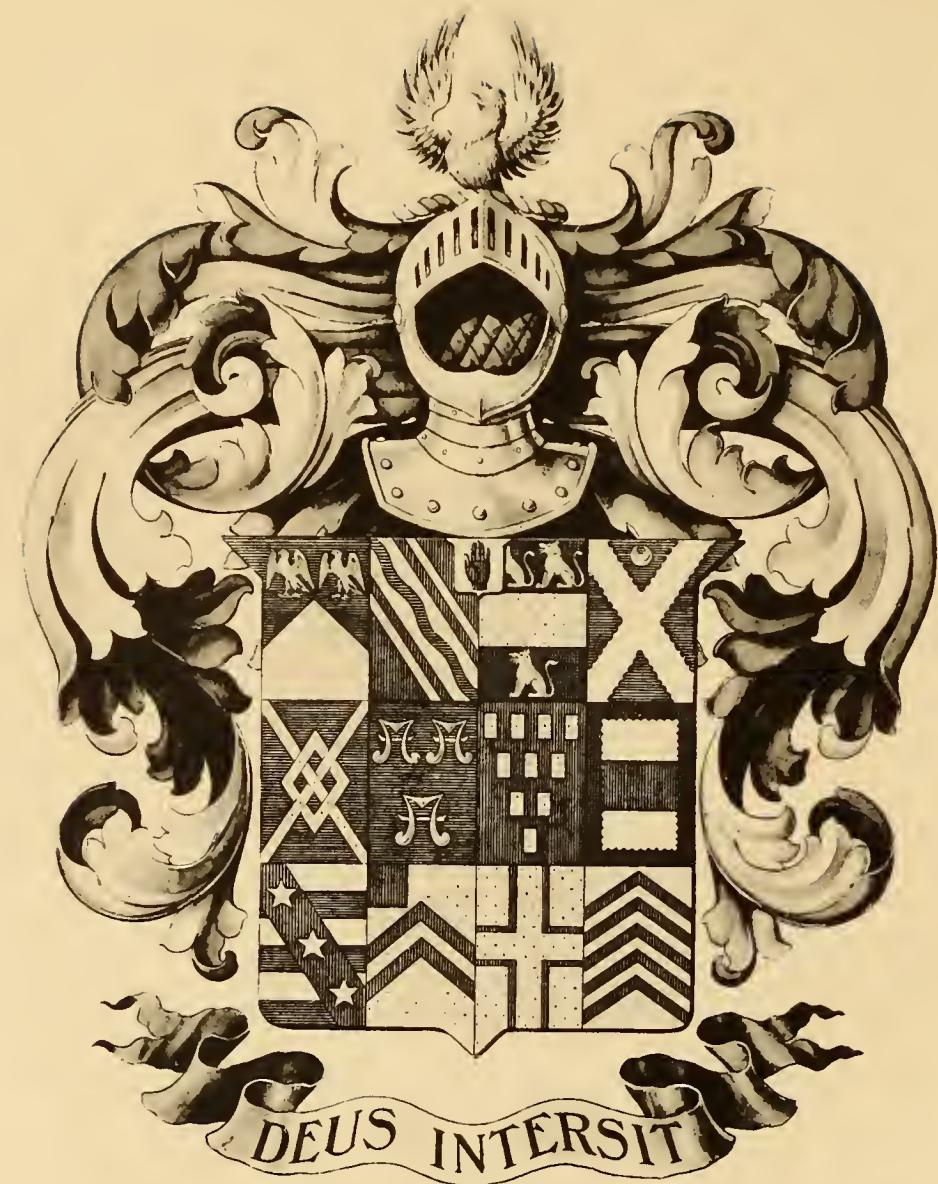
(f) Jane, who died 1681, in childhood.

(g) Milicent, born 1681, who died in infancy.

(h) The Rev. Nathaniel, born July 3, 1679, Rector of Alphamstone, co. Essex, who married Ellis, daughter of P. Deane, Gent., of Harwick, co. Essex, and died August 18, 1762, having had issue;

(aa) Tyringham, born March 20, 1713, a Commissioner in the





QUARTERED ARMS OF SIR PHILIP STEPHENS, BARONET, F. R. S.,  
LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Admiralty, who died February 18, 1768, childless.

(*bb*) Nathaniel, born October 13, 1721, Captain in the Royal Navy, in command of His Majesty's ship "Lively", who died childless, March 23, 1747.

(*cc*) Sir Philip, Baronet, F. R. S., of St. Faith's and Horsford, co. Norfolk, and Fulham, co. Middlesex, who was born October 11, 1723, educated at Harwich,<sup>1</sup> and early became attached as an official of the Admiralty. After a voyage around the world with Rear Admiral Lord Anson, he was appointed Secretary of the Admiralty,<sup>2</sup> and held the position with distinction for upwards of thirty years, covering the critical period of the American Revolution. Being a man of scientific attainments he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, June 6, 1771; and from 1768 to 1806, a period of thirty-eight years he was Member of Parliament for Sandwich. In

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<sup>1</sup> Gentleman's Magazine, I, 128.

<sup>2</sup> Dictionary of National Biography, LIV, 179-180.

<sup>3</sup> The quarterings of Sir Philip Stephens, Bart., as given in the engraved plate in Bentham's Baronets are 1. Stephens; 2. Lugg; 3. Stone; 4. Tyringham; 5. Daville; 6. Roos; 7. Cowdrey; 8. Welsh; 9. Pabenham; 10. Crioll; 11. Cravencour; 12. Avanches.

1795 he applied for permission to resign his office of Secretary of the Admiralty, the duties of which were heavy; and he was on March 17 of that year created a Baronet by royal letters patent, and appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty. By special recommendation October 15, 1806, Sir Philip Stephens, Bart., then at the age of eighty-one, was granted the honor of a pension for long and distinguished service, of \$7,500 per annum,<sup>1</sup> which he enjoyed until his death November 20, 1809. He was buried in Fulham church. His only son, Captain Thomas Stephens, was killed in a duel at Margate 1790, and his nephew, Brigadier General Stephens Howe, who was included as heir to his title in the patent conferring the baronetcy, died before him childless. The baronetcy thus became extinct.<sup>2</sup>

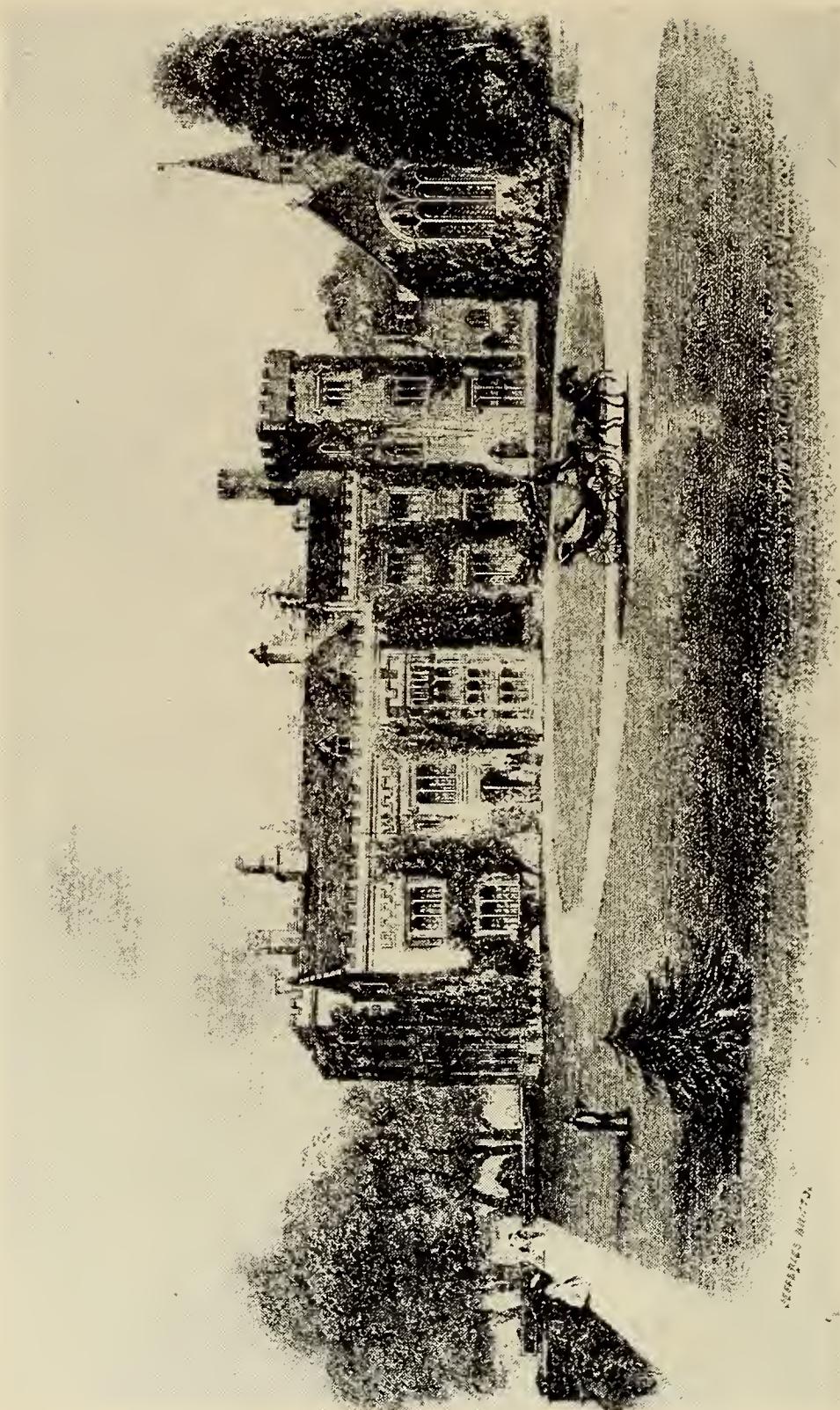
(*dd*) Ellis, born February 22, 1709, who died in infancy.

(*ee*) Grace, born August 5, 1719, who died unmarried.

<sup>1</sup> Orders in Council, Vol. LXVI.

<sup>2</sup> Burke's Extinct Baronetcies, Gentleman's Magazine II, 1180, 1234; Faulkner's Fulham, 272, 273; Thomson's Royal Society; Bentham's Baronets; Cyclopædia of Nat. Biography.





LYPIATT PARK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(ff) Milicent, born February 11, 1715, who married William Howe, Gent., of Mistley Thorne, co. Essex, and had issue; Captain William Howe, an officer of the Royal Navy, who died 1765 unmarried; Captain Tyringham Howe, an officer of the Royal Navy, who died June 14, 1783, unmarried; Nathaniel Howe, who died young; Captain Philip Howe, of Havant, co. Hants, an officer of marines, and, besides three daughters, Grace, Ellis Cornelia, and Milicent, Brigadier General Stephens Howe, who was Colonel of the Duke of York's Regiment and the West India Regiment, Member of Parliament for Yarmouth, Brigadier General in His Majesty's West India forces, and Aid-de-Camp to the King. He died unmarried.

SIR EDWARD STEPHENS, KNIGHT, of Lypiatt Park, and the manor of Little Sodbury, co. Gloucester, eldest son and heir of Attorney General Thomas Stephens, before mentioned,<sup>1</sup> and grandson in the line of eventual heirship of this house of Edward Stephens, first lord of the manors of Eastington and Chavenage, was ancestor of the only authenticated male line of the family that has survived

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 38.

to the present day. He studied at the University of Oxford, and at the Middle Temple, London; and married Anne, daughter of Sir

Thomas Crewe,  
Knt., of North-  
amptonshire,  
Speaker of the  
House of Com-  
mons, and sister  
of John, first  
Lord Crewe, of  
Stene. The  
nephews of  
Lady Stephens,  
Thomas and  
Nathaniel,

succeeded as

second and third Lord Crewe; and with the latter who was also Bishop of Durham, the title became extinct 1721. The estates inherited by Sir Edward from his father are of special interest in connection with the fact of his occupancy of them. Lypiatt Hall still stands in an excellent state of preservation, rising on the slope of a hill overlooking the valley of Strancombe.<sup>2</sup> The Whittington's held the manor under the Plantagenets, and by successive changes it passed into possession of Attorney General Stephens who was succeeded by Sir Edward Stephens.



ARMS OF THE BARONS CREWE, OF STENE.<sup>1</sup>

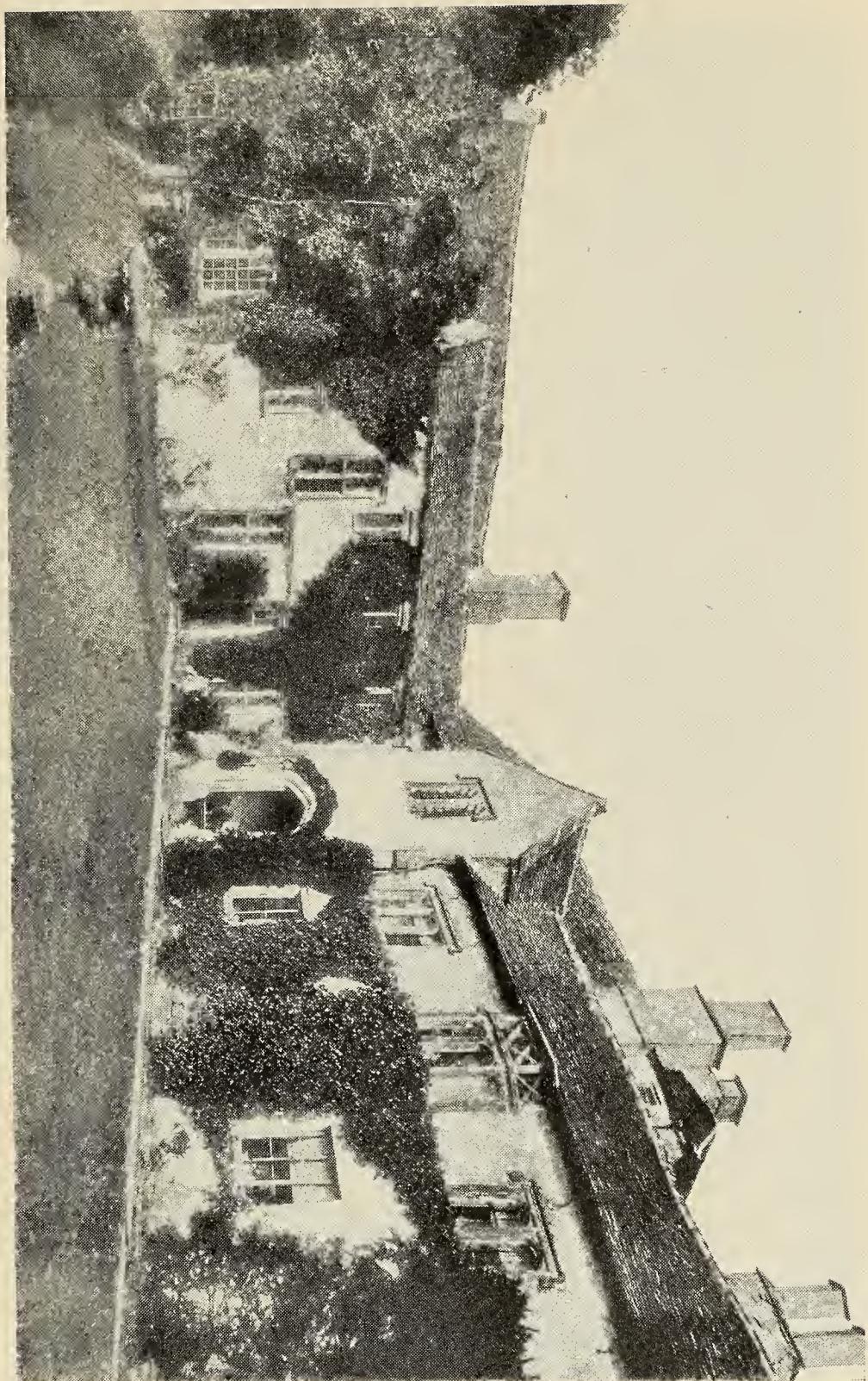
<sup>1</sup> Arms of Crewe: Azure a lion rampant argent, a crescent for difference. Supporters: Dexter a lion argent gorged with a collar azure charged with three roses or. Sinister, a griffin sable wings dorso erected argent, beak and forelegs or. Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or, a lion's gamb argent armed gules. Motto: "Sequor nec inferior". Over the shield the coronet of a Baron.

<sup>2</sup> The illustration is from Transactions of Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc. V, 57. It has been verified by a recent photograph.

According to persistent legend, reiterated in the history of Gloucestershire, by the learned antiquary Sir R. Atkyns, the Gunpowder Plot was concocted in this castle. And to the present day a room is pointed out in which the conspirators met. During the stormy days of the Commonwealth the castle was garrisoned by those in favor of the Parliamentary interest, with which at that time all the members of the Stephens family sided. In 1642 it was besieged by a military force of the royalists in command of Sir Jacob Astley, and after a severe contest was captured, with the loss of fifty-one men. This was felt at the time to be a serious blow; but the family influence in public affairs increased, and the damages of the siege were eventually repaired. The entrance is by an embattled porch, and the building is divided in its centre by a hall, the ceiling of which is embellished by a fresco representing the story of Mutius and Porsemos. There are towers and other means of defense, and in ancient times there was probably a moat. The adjoining private chapel is of mediæval construction. The other manor house of Sir Edward Stephens, that of Little Sodbury, is in less satisfactory preservation. This house was visited by King Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn in their royal progress of 1535. Within its walls Tyndale partly made his translation of the New Testament. The portion of the building in which he toiled at this task has fallen into ruins. In the transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society,<sup>1</sup> is a description of the venerable manor house: "The porch, with its pointed arched hood moulding, and stone seats admits the visitor to a central passage on the left of which a door leads to the great hall, and on the

<sup>1</sup> Vol. XXI, pp. 17, 18.

right is a staircase leading up to a room which is lighted by a fine oriel window." "The great hall, which is rapidly falling to decay, and must ere long be in ruins, if nothing is done to save it, has a fine timber roof with braces, and angel corbels. The dais or raised floor on which the lord of the manor and his family sat at meat, was at the south end, whilst along the east and the west sides long tables were set for the retainers after the manner of all baronial houses of the period. At the north end was a screen and above it a minstrels' gallery. Over the dais in the east wall is a hideous mask, though the apertures in which, it is said, the ladies of the household and their friends looked down from their gallery on the revellers below. Two corbels, some nine feet up in the west walls, now removed, were formerly intended, it is supposed, to support lamps. Beyond the great hall there anciently extended other rooms, the library, drawing rooms, and the state bed rooms. The woodwork and stone carvings are partly intact". The present squire who purchased the manor from an heiress of the Stephens family has removed much of historic interest to his new house "Lyegrove", on the old estate. Sir Edward Stephens took an active part in the political turmoil in which he lived. He sided with the Parliamentary party in the controversy as long as the conflict remained confined to what might with any color be called a constitutional struggle, and was not aimed against the royal person of King Charles I. He was an earnest lover of old English liberty. But when, after a close relation to public affairs, he became convinced that the Parliamentary leaders had gone to too great lengths and had become themselves a menace to the constitution, he, with the vast body of conservative men of the nation, selected to suffer rather than share in radical measures. He therefore, having been energetic as a Member of the Long



ENTRANCE COURT OF THE MANOR HOUSE OF LITTLE SODBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Parliament, refused membership in the Rump Parliament, and was one of those violently ejected from the House of Commons by Col. Pride, in the revolutionary proceedings commonly called "Pride's Purge". This indignity at the hands of the revolutionists was later regarded as an honor by those who had suffered it. He and Sir Matthew Hale, who was a neighbor in Gloucestershire, and a connection of the Stephens family by marriage, as has been seen,<sup>1</sup> were elected by all Gloucestershire as the two representatives, or Knights of the Shire, to the Restoration Parliament; and they favored the overwhelming wish of the English people for the restoration of the ancient line of kings. Sir Edward had been Member of Parliament for Tewksbury, 1640, 1641. He was secluded, and confined as a prisoner of state by the Parliamentary party in 1648 when he had deliberately and firmly turned against their excesses. He received recognition for his patriotic position from King Charles II, who conferred upon him the honor of Knighthood, July 11, 1660, within a few days after the restoration had taken place, and who conferred the same honor upon his celebrated colleague, Matthew Hale, in the following autumn.<sup>2</sup> Sir Edward died about 1670, having had issue:

I. Sir Thomas, Knight, of the manor of Little Sodbury, co. Gloucester, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire,<sup>3</sup> who married Catherine, daughter and co-heiress

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 42.

<sup>2</sup> His branch of the family substituted the motto: "Deus intersit", for the motto of the Eastington branch; "Ad diem tendo".

<sup>3</sup> The Harlian MS. 1041, fo. 94 b., is in error in seeming to place the age of Sir Thomas as four years in 1623. The family records and contemporaneous facts attest his age then to have been fourteen. The present writer has examined the original MS. in the British Museum, and is of opinion that the error was caused by haste in transcribing, or a misunderstanding of the statement made at the Visitation—four and fourteen being of similar sound—or that through copying the slight stroke of 1 was omitted or so faintly traced as to have faded out with age. This is not the only slip in the MS. caused by defective copying, or otherwise.

of William Combs, Esq., of Stratford-upon-Avon, co. Warwick, and had issue a son;

1. Thomas, who married Anne, daughter of John Neale, Esq., of Deane, a near relative of Oliver Cromwell, and had a son Edward, who married Sarah, daughter and heiress of Richard Burthogg, of Totness, co. Devon, whose line became extinct.<sup>1</sup>



ARMS OF NEALE OF DEANE<sup>2</sup>

II. JOHN, of Guilford, Conn., of whom presently.<sup>3</sup>

III. Edward, of whom nothing further is known.

IV. Anne, who married John Packer, Esq.

JOHN STEPHENS, Esq., of Lypiatt Park, and the manor of Little Sodbury, co. Gloucester, and of Guilford, in the province of New Haven, (afterwards Connecticut), son of Sir Edward Stephens, and Anne his wife, sister of the first

<sup>1</sup> John Neale was son of John Neale by Anna, youngest daughter and co-heiress of Henry Cromwell, Esq., of Upwood, co. Huntington, son of Sir Henry Cromwell. She was first cousin of Oliver Cromwell.

<sup>2</sup> Arms of Neale. Per pale sable and gules, a lion passant guardant argent. Crest: Out of a mural crown a demi lion rampant per fesse ermine and gules charged with an escollop countercharged.

<sup>3</sup> The identity of John Stephens, and the fact that his father was Sir Edward Stephens, of Sodbury, are specifically recorded in the family documents, and in historical works and official papers on both sides of the Atlantic, and confirmed by contemporaneous circumstances, and by research. The Edgemere MS. pp. 425-432, gives the family descent with refer-

Lord Crewe of Stene, was founder of the American branch of this house, now the heirs male of the family. He was named for his uncle John Stephens, M. P. Shortly before his journey to America which took place about 1648,<sup>1</sup> his father's house at Lypiatt had been besieged and captured by the royalist party; and later his father was made a prisoner of state by the extremists of the opposite faction. It was a period of low ebb in the fortunes of the

ences to authorities in detail. The Harlian MSS., vol. 1041, fol. 94 b, and vol. 1543, fol. 110 b, give information from contemporaneous sources; and the present writer has personally examined and verified these originals in the British Museum, with the confirmatory authorities. Smith's History of Guilford, Conn., in its two editions; Savage's New England Genealogical Dictionary; the Colonial Records of Connecticut published by the State, and other printed works give some particulars. The Harlian Society in its publications based on the Visitations of the College of Heralds, has made accessible to the public important information of legal weight. This has been carefully gone over by modern antiquaries and competent searchers with the result of confirming all the main facts, and enlarging the historic material available. In Vol. XX of these Publications, p. 151, is one of these records that John Stephens was the second son of Sir Edward Stephens. As the record is older than the date when Sir Edward received Knighthood it does not mention him with the title of "Sir". But that only shows its contemporaneous character. The work is based on the Visitation of the County of Gloucester, taken in the year 1623 by Henry Chitty and John Phillpot as deputies to William Camden, Clarenceux King of Arms, with pedigrees from the Heralds' Visitations of 1569 and 1582-3. It was edited in 1885 by Sir John Maclean, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and W. C. Heane, M. R. C. S. A work of more detail is the record of a Visitation of the County of Gloucester begun by Thomas May, Chester, and Gregory King, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant in Trinity vacation 1682, and finished by Henry Dethick, Richmond, and the before mentioned Rouge Dragon Pursuivant in Trinity vacation 1683, "by virtue of several deputations", of Sir Henry St. George, then Clarenceux King of Arms. This work was edited by F. Fitz Roy Fenwick, and Walter C. Metcalfe, also associated with the English Society of Antiquaries, in 1884. In it the Stephens pedigree is given with great fullness, including the record that John Stephens was the second son of Sir Edward Stephens in the eldest line from the Attorney General Thomas Stephens. And this pedigree has been amplified by members of the English branch of the family, and has final authority because based not only on the official Visitation of the College of Heralds, but also upon the family pedigree record long maintained at Eastington House; which record was fortunately preserved from destruction at the burning of the old manorial home by having previously passed into custody of the De La Beres of Southam House with some other heirlooms, on the intermarriage of that ancient family with the Stephenses. With the descendants of the De La Beres, the present writer has been in correspondence. The family record in the original writing thus saved from Eastington, having come under inspection of the distinguished antiquarian and archaeologist Sir Thomas Philips, Bart., the latter made exhaustive examination regarding its nature and accuracy, with the same result of completely verifying the facts of the record. Family records and public proof coincide. It is rare that any family link between England and America, or indeed any genealogical detail is so thoroughly substantiated as this. Particulars are here given regarding it, because of the special interest attaching.

<sup>1</sup> The exact date of his coming is not known. It may have been as early as 1645.

family; and the outlook in the mother country was such as to cause many Englishmen to desire the comparative quiet of the life then to be found in America. Several of his friends had already sought asylum in the New England across seas. As a younger son, he appeared to have slight prospect at home in the existing conditions. His wife, who was probably of Kent, had died a little while before his leaving England. He sought Connecticut where he had kinsmen; taking with him two sons and a daughter. And he was at once given a grant of lands, and accorded a place of influence in Guilford.<sup>1</sup> One of the Fowler family connected by marriage with the Eastington line of the Stephenses, joined him at Guilford, and secured lands immediately next to his. An island off the coast not far from his landed property was named Falcon Island in understood allusion to the well-known falcons in the coat of arms.<sup>2</sup> He became a Judge in the community.<sup>3</sup> As a member of the Church of England he was long denied the right to vote (then called freemanship), which was limited to Puritans; but received it together with his sons when he conformed to the Puritan usage in 1669,<sup>4</sup> there being no other religious worship then locally existing. Subsequently the elder line of his descendants returned to the communion of the Anglican Church. As is familiarly known, many gentlemen of old family took up homes in New England, and in Virginia and some other provinces; but as a single locality, Guilford was notable for historical relation to prominent men and affairs of the period.

<sup>1</sup> John Stephens, though of Gloucestershire, may have gone to New England from Kent, as Smith surmises: *Hist. of Guilford*. There is no known authority for this, but it seems not impossible, as he may have had some contact with Kent.

<sup>2</sup> Smith's *Hist. of Guilford*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, and Family Archives.

<sup>4</sup> *Guilford Town Records*, A, p. 67. He had long contributed to the support of the Puritan minister.

The Puritan minister of the place, the Rev. Mr. Whitfield, was a member of the family of the Whitfields, of Oakley, co. Surry, and eventually returned to England. He had voyaged from Kent with certain of his congregation, who were the founders of Guilford. His daughter Dorothy was the first wife of Samuel Desborough, brother of Major General John Desborough, one of the leaders of the armies of the Commonwealth, who was Governor of St. Brival's Castle, Gloucestershire, in close contact with the old Stephens estates, and was brother-in-law of the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell, having married the latter's sister. Samuel Desborough who had taken up residence in Guilford in 1641, seems to have had directly to do with the going there of John Stephens. John Stephens was, as already seen, in family connection with the family of Oliver Cromwell, being own cousin of Hester Stephens Neale, who by marriage was cousin to the Protector. He was also cousin of Thomas Stephens who married into the same close kinship. Samuel Desborough remained at Guilford at least two years after the arrival of John Stephens, whose Fowler relative also arrived there evidently by some mutual understanding. This Lieutenant John Fowler who became prominent in the province,<sup>1</sup> and was the wealthiest man in Guilford<sup>2</sup> may have joined his voice to persuade John Stephens to a home at that locality or may himself have gone to Guilford because of the latter's going thither. However this be, it is known that the two acted together, and selected adjoining lands. Samuel Desborough who returned to England in 1650, was made by Cromwell, Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, was Member

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<sup>1</sup> He was a member of the General Court, and eventually of the Governor's Council.

<sup>2</sup> Hist. of Guilford.

of Parliament for Midlothian, 1656, and for Edinburgh, 1658, 1659; After the restoration of Charles II, he retired to his manor of Ellsworth, co. Cambridge. But, meanwhile, through the influence of Desborough, or otherwise, a number of gentlemen of family had been brought into association at Guilford. There were the Welleses who early gave a Governor to Connecticut, the Dudleys, kin of the Earl of Leicester, with both of which families the Stephenses became allied by marriage; and the Meggs (Meigs) family of the manor of Bradford Peverel, co. Dorset, with whom they twice intermarried, and were in intimate contact for several generations, as the family archives bear evidence. With these were Governor Leete, of Connecticut, a graduate of the University of Cambridge, who had sometime been Registrar of the Court of the Bishop of Ely;<sup>1</sup> and the Chittendens who had seen military service with William of Orange in the Netherlands.<sup>2</sup> The Rev. John Hoadley, who returned to the motherland, was one of the chaplains of Cromwell's army, and being later convinced of the justice of the royal cause, became chaplain to General Monk, Duke of Albermarle, who brought about the Restoration. He was father of John Hoadley, Archbishop of Armagh, and grandfather of the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Hoadley, Lord Bishop of Bangor. There were the Baronet family of Sheaffes, the Chatfields, Wilcoxes and other Englishmen of gentle blood; and, as already seen, there was close contact between these men and current affairs in high quarters, in the mother country. Colonel George Fenwick, resident near by, had been a member of the Long Parliament in company with Sir

<sup>1</sup> He was Governor of Connecticut and gave protection in his house at Guilford, to Generals Goffe and Whalley, of Cromwell's army, (who had been judges for the beheading of Charles I), when they passed through; being actively aided in this by John Meigs, Esq.

<sup>2</sup> A descendant of this family was first Governor of Vermont in association with the great-great-grandfather of the present writer, Col. Joseph Marsh, as Lieutenant Governor.

THE GREEN, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT.





Edward Stephens. Returning "home" he became Governor of Berwick and one of the eight Commissioners for Scotland. It was in such association as this that John Stephens made his home under very English conditions and connections in what became eventually a part of the United States. He may have had some thought of returning himself, as his eldest son was not brought over with him, but left with the relatives in England. He lived till 1670, when he died after a lingering illness.<sup>1</sup> His will, which was made August 27, 1670, he sealed, but was too feeble to sign. It was however admitted, and is preserved in the original in the State House of Connecticut at Hartford. It begins: "This writing witnesseth that I John Stephens of Guilford, in the county of New Haven, in ye Colony of Connecticut in New England, being sick and ill in body, but of perfect mind and memory, blessed be God, I do leave this my last will and testament as followeth; and first I bequeath my soul into the hand of Almighty God, yt gave it me, and my body to the dust, to be decently buried, and for the wordly goods yt God hath given me, I give, etc". He then bequeaths the bulk of his landed estate to William as eldest son in America, on condition of a gift in money to his elder brother in England, with special legacies to other children and to grandchildren who are mentioned by name.<sup>2</sup> Throughout the will, as in the first official list of the family in Guilford in 1650, the family name is spelled with its usual old English spelling of "Stephens."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Guilford Town Record, R. A., p. 67, records that he was buried the second of September, 1670. His death probably occurred therefore August 31, 1670.

<sup>2</sup> Ruggles' History of Guilford in Mass. Hist. Collections, Vol. IV; Conn. Hist. Records, 215.

<sup>3</sup> By customary usage of the Stephens family, as generally of all English gentle families, as is well known, land inheritance, at least in bulk, has been from ancient times legally associated with an eldest son or heir—the elder descendant succeeding by primogeniture. In the Stephens family, even in America, the recognition of an hereditary headship of the family in the eldest male representative by lineal blood, has been scrupulously maintained generation by generation

In later family and public records the fashion of that period is shown in the disregard of fixed letters for the spelling, care being taken only in preserving the sound of



FACSIMILE OF THE SIGNATURE OF  
JOHN STEPHENS OF GUILFORD

The spelling seems to be Stephyns

the name. Instances occur where the name is spelled in several different styles in a single document. The older spelling "Stephens" has at least persisted occasionally even where other forms were used. John Stephens was

to the present time without a break and without question. Of many other old families in America the same thing, so far as descent is concerned, is true. Such recognition of the principle of primogeniture or of elder heredity, however changed in later days, was common in New England among gentle families in the time of John Stephens, of Guilford, modified, in the case of land inheritance by geographical conditions. When an inheritance was mainly of land located in New England, which in the nature of things at that period was practically valueless to an heir resident in the mother country, it was regarded proper to have it devolve on the eldest male actually on the spot. As land could not be transported across sea, nor then easily turned into money equivalent, it was often considered sufficient where primogeniture was held to, to allow for an eldest heir's "coming over", and on his failure to "come", to make him a specified moneyed provision instead of land, in the act conveying the land to the eldest heir in residence. To this law of primogeniture as seemingly thus applicable in New England, John Stephens carefully conformed in his will, giving the bulk of his landed estate to William Stephens, as his eldest son actually resident in America, on the condition of the latter's making a nominal moneyed payment to his elder brother, then in England; to which elder brother William eventually became full heir. Further evidence of William's inheritance is found in Terrier 1 of John Collins' lands, in Guilford Town Records, in which in transferring certain of the lands, it is specified that William inherited them from his father. And also there is evidence in a deed dated March 11, 1669-70, and recorded in Guilford Town Records, Vol. B, p. 114, that the father consulted his eldest son John before so much as adding a strip to even up the lines of some property that had been purchased by Thomas adjoining his own. The language of the grant clearly shows the usage of primogeniture as implying the need or propriety of his eldest son John's consent. It reads: I "doe give unto my sonne Thomas Steuens of Killingworth, MY ELDEST SONE AND HEIR BEING WILLING," etc.

A singular mistake arose at one time as to the relative age of Hon. Thomas Stephens, by which some writers supposed him to have been the second son, and chief heir to his father. The confusion seems to have been due to some one's blunder in reading the name "Thomas" in place of "William" in the provision of the will of John Stephens, which refers to the principal landed inheritance. They thus attributed to Thomas the position and obligations which in that legal instrument are specifically and definitely recognized as belonging to William. Unfortunately this blunder has sometimes proved misleading in consequence of failure to compare such statements with the original will in the State Capitol at Hartford, and easily accessible. The error may have been influenced in part by a hasty inference from the fact that in the will Thomas Stephens is mentioned first of all the children, and therefore before

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buried at Guilford September 2, 1670,<sup>1</sup> ten years after the restoration of King Charles II. He left issue;

I. John, who at the time of his father's death was living in England, and whom the record shows to have been childless.

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William. No supposition in favor of the elder birth of Thomas, however, could ever have been properly based upon this fact, because Thomas' name precedes in this connection not only that of William, but also that of John, the acknowledged eldest son. Some explanation for its appearance in such position must be found other than primogeniture. And if such occurrence of his name before that of John and William be assumed by reason of the order of mention here or elsewhere to mean his being elder, what is meant when he is mentioned again in the will in the proper sequence after John and William? In the first instance the precedence cannot possibly mean that he was the eldest son, and in the second instance on the contrary it indicates his being the youngest. The true explanation seems to be, that Thomas who is known to have been an able and active man, was entrusted with the drawing of the will, and being by his father's death-bed for that purpose, was by his father not only made executor, but also shown special favors—being remembered before others, and with a natural kindly thought shown for him and his children. His being constituted executor of course proves nothing; as anyone whether of kin or not could be that. But it is evidence that he was held in affection and honor by his father, and together with the existence of legacies to him bars any possible theory of his being disinherited. And in these circumstances it is inconceivable had he been second son and as such chief heir to the American possessions, that his father would have done him the refined cruelty of making him the executor of a will which took away from him this birthright and gave it to a younger son, compelling Thomas to hand over his own proper share of the estate to his brother. It would require much and substantial proof to demonstrate such a thing as that—whereas no evidence is known to exist which substantiates any supposition that Thomas was second son, and there is no indication in such direction save some repeated copying of the error already referred to—which falls to the ground before the will itself. In recognizing in his will William as his principal heir, John Stephens charged him, as already stated, with the carrying out of financial provision for John, as the only brother older than himself, and also for his sister Mary—giving him the family home and the bulk of the landed property. In contrast with this the inconsequential character of the legacy to Thomas in the first mention of his name is clear—consisting as it did merely of a mare and a "brass kettle". And even in the second mention of Thomas when his name comes in the will in the regular sequence after those of his elder brothers John and William, the legacy gives him but an old suit of clothes, an old cloak, a pair of sheets, and a bed and bedding—certainly not the provision by primogeniture for "the heir". It seems proper thus to clear away any apparent confusion regarding a gentleman who himself was in no sense responsible for it, and who was held in high honor in his day. The residuum of the property was equally divided; but who the chief landed heir inheriting his father's house and principal estate really was, is recorded by the will, as by family and other records. It is a fact of interest that the American line is the only authenticated surviving male line of the house of Fitz Stephen, and that the headship of the house, according to the law of primogeniture, has unbrokenly been acknowledged in the succession of the descendants of William Stephens, as eldest male representatives of the American branch, and also of the English branch of the family.

<sup>1</sup> Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of New England, Vol. IV, "Stevens". In colonial records of Connecticut in the list of gentlemen, who were distinguished in that rank by being designated "Mr.", are members of this family, but with the spelling "Stephens".

II. WILLIAM, eventual heir, of whom presently.

III. Hon. Thomas, an officer in the military expedition against the Dutch of New York during the War between England and the Netherlands, 1654. His name originally spelled "Stephens" in the records, and so spelled in his father's will, came to be Steuens and Steevens, which latter his descendants continue.<sup>1</sup> He was one of the founders of Killingworth, Conn., and was a member of the General Court, or Legislature of Connecticut, 1671—1683.<sup>2</sup> He married Mary Fletcher, and died November 18, 1685.

IV. Mary, who married first Harry Kingsnoth, Esq.,<sup>3</sup> of Wolvendon, co. Kent, and secondly, June 2, 1669, John Collins, of Guilford, Conn. She died 1700, having by her second husband had issue;

1. Mary, born February, 1700.

WILLIAM STEPHENS, Esq., of Guilford, Colony of Connecticut, was born in England, and accompanied to America,



FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURE OF WILLIAM STEPHENS OR STEEVENS

his father, to the bulk of whose landed estate he became the heir. He was for some years magistrate of Guilford. Together with his father-in-law, John

Meggs, Esq., his brother Hon. Thomas Stephens, and Dr. Rossiter, he actively opposed the uniting of the colony of New Haven with that of Connecticut. And this movement

<sup>1</sup> See the valuable work of Mr. Clay W. Holmes on the "Genealogy of Steevens", and New Haven Colonial Records, 1653—1665.

<sup>2</sup> New Haven Col. Rec. 1671—1683.

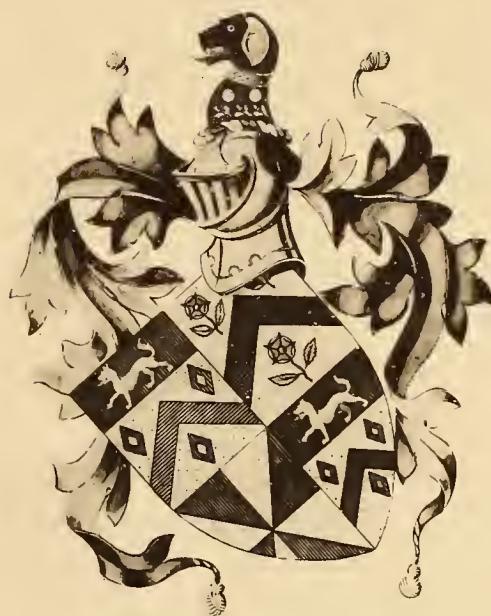
<sup>3</sup> Savage N. E. Gen. Dic. IV, 190.

A Survey of the Lands of John Meigs in Guilford Co  
February 1671 the first  
beginning at Thomas Betts his meath  
at Salt End containing 3 acres and tarely 7 rods above for  
2 acres and a half 3 rods more or less bounded by the highways  
westerly by the creek an Island of upland inclosing it into two  
parts which is common Land

DOCUMENT FROM THE FAMILY ARCHIVES RELATING TO LANDS OF JOHN MEIGS, FATHER-IN-LAW OF WILLIAM STEPHENS, AND  
DATED FOUR MONTHS FROM THE DEATH OF JOHN STEPHENS, OF GUILFORD  
This is selected at random as being merely an interesting specimen of many hundreds of papers of all kinds preserved in the Stevens Archives relating to the  
family and its intermarriages



led to the founding of the town of Killingworth, which was originally called Kenilworth after the locality in Warwickshire near which lived his kinsman Robert Beale, of Prior's Marston, co. Warwick, Secretary of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth.<sup>2</sup> Lands were granted to William Stephens under patent of the colony.<sup>3</sup> In 1669 we find the names of "Willime Steeuns" and "Thomas Steeuns" on the list of freemen of Kenilworth.<sup>4</sup> He subsequently returned to Guilford. In signing his will he spells the name "Steeavns" though in his father's will his name is given "Stephens". He married March 3, 1653, Mary, eldest daughter of John Meggs, Esq., son of Vincent Meggs, of the manor of Bradford Peverell, co. Dorset, and of Guilford, Connecticut. She died April 30, 1703, and he in 1710 or 1712, in the reign of Queen Anne, having had issue;

ARMS OF THE MEIGS FAMILY<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Meigs Arms: Quarterly 1st and 4th Or a chevron azure between three mascles gules, on a chief of the last a wolf passant argent, for Meggs; 2d, Argent a chevron sable between three roses seeded and leaved proper, for West; 3d, Gironny of eight argent and gules, for Peverel. Crest: A talbot's head sable eared argent, collared or, under the collar two roundels fessewise and three acorns of the third leaved vert.

<sup>2</sup> The spelling Killingworth has been supposed to be a modern American corruption of Kenilworth. But it is found in English usage of that period. The pronunciation in English custom was the same.

<sup>3</sup> Conn. Records, p. 449.

<sup>4</sup> Colonial Records of Conn. 1679, p. 525.

- I. John, born March 3, 1654, Ensign in the Colonial forces, who was killed in the Pequot war 1676, unmarried.
- II. Samuel, born March, 1656, who married first Elizabeth —, and secondly Melatiah, daughter of Major William Bradford, and granddaughter of Governor Bradford, of Massachusetts, and had issue ;
  1. John, who died unmarried October 5, 1742.
- III. Nathaniel, born May 10, 1659, who died in infancy.
- IV. LIEUTENANT NATHANIEL, born October 29, 1661, of whom presently.
- V. Judith, born October 1, 1668, who married Samuel Buell.
- VI. Josiah, born December 8, 1670, who became a physician, and married first June 25, 1699, Sarah —, and secondly July 11, 1733, Mercy Hoadley, a widow, and died March 15, 1754, having had issue ;
  1. Josiah, of Killingworth, born March 25, 1700, who married Martha Smith, and whose line became extinct.
  2. Daniel, born October 18, 1701, who married Esther Chatfield.
  3. Elnathan, born April 13, 1703, who married Mary Hull, and died December 26, 1776.
  4. Jerusha, born October 19, 1704, who married Daniel Griswold, Esq.
  5. Nathaniel, born 1716 ; died 1805.
- VI. Mary, born November 2, 1677, who married Joseph Harris.



To all People to Whom these presents shall come Greeting

Know ye that Whereas there are Two Tracts of Land Situate lying & lying in Guilford in the County of New Haven in the State of Connecticut in New England which lately belonged to the Estate of Capt Nathaniel Stevens late of Guilford deceased and is now lying in Partnership between Mindwell Stevens his son & Heir of the said Capt and Nathaniel Stevens Elsie Stevens Spalding Stevens Sarah Bishop widow & Heir of Stevens & the B Elsie Spalding & Mabel being minors the Court of Probate in Guilford hath appointed Enos John Graven & Capt Nehemiah Peleg of Guilford to Adjust the Affairs of Both in Dividing & making partition of the Lands one tract being the farm or Homestead where the Capt Stevens last Dwelt and the other lying at or near a place called Summer Hill and the B Partners or Servants or Common have agreed and made Partition of the Lands and with the assistance of B Graven & Nehemiah Peleg the Guardians Set to Each partner his or their respective Share in severally as followeth viz  
To B Nathl Stevens the Eldest Son is Set out the whole tract of Land lying at Summer Hill containing by estimation Seventy acres & half ait bore South Bounded and Bounded West by by the Highway Northly by the land of Abigail wife of Enos Bishop East by by the land of Thomas Fletcher Esq and South by by the Land of Ebenezer Graven To Have and To Hold the same with the appurtenances thereof in severally to him his Heirs & assigns forever being his full Share in the Lands; and to the Widow Mindwell Stevens apoted & Bounded and Set out as her Share in the Lands & half an acre of Land with the Dwelling House & buildings thereon bounded West by by the Highway northly by land Set out to B Elizabth East by by land Set out to B Mabel And South by by land Set out to B Elsie and also Three acres of Land lying at the north East corner of the farm bounded West by by the Land Set out to the B Sarah Bishop North by East by by the Land of John H. Land and south by by Land Set out to B Elizabth To Have and To Hold the B Two pieces of Land with the appurtenances thereof in severally to the B Mindwell Stevens her Heirs and assigns forever and to the B Sarah Bishop & Bounded and Set out in severally three acres and one third part of an acre bounded West by by the Highway northly by the land of John H. Land East by by land Set out to B Elizabth East by partly by Land Set out to her mother the B Mindwell Northly by land and partly by Land Set out to her mother the B Mindwell Northly by land and partly by Land Set out to B Elizabth East by partly by Land Set out to B Elizabth and partly by Land Set out to B Elizabth And Southly by Land Set out to B Elizabth and also one acre of Land bounded Northly by Land Set out to B Elizabth mother & Southly & East by & West by by Land Set out to B Elizabth and to B Elizabth there is Bounded and Set out in severally a tract of Land containing by estimation Twenty two acres and three quarters of an acre and that is bounded West by by the Highway Northly partly by Land Set out to B Elizabth partly by Land Set out to B Mabel and partly by Land Set out to B Elizabth East by by the River called Housmannakeet River and Southly partly by B Graven partly by the land of John Allcock & partly by the land of Mrs Blackly To Have and To Hold the above tract with the appurtenances thereof in severally to him & Elizabth his Heirs & assigns forever; and also there is Bounded and Set out in severally a tract of Land containing by estimation Twenty two acres & three quarters of an acre bounded

DOCUMENT FROM THE FAMILY ARCHIVES

Part of the settlement of the landed estate of Captain Nathaniel Stevens, of "Summer Hill", Guilford, Conn., giving the names of his immediate heir male, Nathaniel Stevens, and his eventual heir male, Hon. Elihu Stevens, of Claremont, N. H.

NATHANIEL STEPHENS, Esq., of "Summer Hill", near Guilford, Connecticut, was eventual heir and head of the family, and inherited his father's lands at and near Guilford. In 1705 he was commissioned Lieutenant in the Colonial forces in Queen Anne's War. In the commission his name is inscribed "Nathan<sup>ll</sup> Stephens".<sup>1</sup> His signature is attached to a petition to the General Court, 1695. His will, dated October 22, 1709, was proved at New Haven, November 2 of the same year. His tombstone, formerly in the burial ground on the green in front of Yale University, has been removed with others to the north wall of the new, so-called "Old" cemetery. The inscription, partly obliterated, reads: LEIV. NATH..... STEVENS, AGED 48, DECEAS<sup>D</sup> OCT<sup>O</sup> 22 AN<sup>O</sup> DOM 1709. From his time the family name was usually settled in spelling as "Stevens" though the old orthography "Stephens" has never wholly ceased. Lieutenant Stephens or Stevens, married Sarah \_\_\_\_\_,<sup>2</sup> who was born 1632, and died May 24, 1746, by whom he had issue;

- I. NATHANIEL, of whom presently.
- II. Sarah, who married September 25, 1707, Stephen Bishop, Jr., of Guilford.
- III. Elizabeth, who married May 10, 1714, Hon. John Graves, Jr., of Guilford, and died February 10, 1725.

NATHANIEL STEVENS, Esq., of "Summer Hill", near Guilford, Connecticut, succeeded to his father's landed possessions. In 1740 he was commissioned Lieutenant, and in 1741 Captain of the 6th Company of the 7th Connecticut Regiment. He married November 11, 1713, Mindwell,

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<sup>1</sup> Connecticut Records, 1705, p. 526.

<sup>2</sup> Her name is uncertain. It appears in the records as Sarah Stephens.

ARMS OF GRAVES FAMILY<sup>1</sup>

first May 14, 1746, Sarah Griswold; secondly, October 20, 1762, Ruth Dudley; and thirdly August 15, 1787, Rebecca Buel. His first two children were by his first wife, the next three by his second wife, and the last one by his third wife. He died October 8, 1798, when the male heirship passed to his brother, Hon. Elihu Stevens, of Claremont. He had issue;<sup>2</sup>

daughter of the Hon. George Graves, of Hartford, member of the General Court, or Legislature, of Connecticut. She died February 12, 1771, and he March 9, 1747, in the reign of King George II, having had issue;

I. Mindwell, or Jerusha, born February 2, 1715, who married November 20, 1733, Jonathan Crampton, Esq.

II. Nathaniel, born June 6, 1721, who married

<sup>1</sup> The Graves family seems to have had kin in Gloucestershire. Graves Arms: Gules an eagle displayed or, in dexter chief point a martlet of the second for difference. Crest: An eagle displayed or, winged gules. Motto: "Aquila non captat muscas". The arms have been varied. But the foregoing agrees with the sculpture on a contemporaneous tombstone in New England, and is known to be correct.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Talcott, an antiquarian of Guilford, has in kindly interest, endeavored to trace two entirely different families of the name of Stevens, there having been more than one family so named, in Guilford. He has, however, confused them without the least authority, and has mistakenly assigned several persons to the present pedigree, who the wills, settlements and other

1. Jerusha, born April 28, 1747, who married Didymus French.
2. Samuel, born September 19, 1754, who died September 24, 1776, in military service at Fort Ticonderoga, in the War of the American Revolution, unmarried.
3. Roswell, born October 14, 1764, died in 1794, without male issue.
4. Mabel.
5. Sarah.
6. Julia.

III. Sarah, born March 16, 1722, who married November 2, 1737, Ebenezer Bishop.

IV. HON. ELIHU, born April 8, 1731, eventual heir, of whom presently.

V. Eliakim, born October 4, 1734, who married January 7, 1756, Susannah French, and died in Guilford, January 27, 1784; his widow dying at Claremont, N. H. He had issue;

1. Susan, born April 26, 1757.
2. Bula, born April 5, 1760, who died July 8, 1776.
3. Mindwell, born May 25, 1763, who died April 11, 1785.
4. Eliakim, born November 8, 1765, who married first Prudence —, who died December 13, 1825, and secondly, October 7, 1829, Patty Davis, who died May 20, 1852. He died December 16, 1834.

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VI. Mabel, born October 8, 1739, who married October 20, 1757, Timothy Munger, of Guilford.

HON. ELIHU STEVENS, of Guilford, Connecticut, and Claremont, New Hampshire, went from Guilford to Claremont in 1765, about the time the latter town was founded, in the early years of the reign of King George III. Claremont had been granted in 1764 to his kinsman Josiah Williard,<sup>1</sup> Samuel Ashley, and several other gentlemen, and a body of yeomen, numbering all told about sixty-seven persons. It was located near the upper waters of the Connecticut river on a spot that had been passed and repassed by troops engaged in the then recent Seven Years' War, on their way to wrest Canada from the King of France and render it subject to the British crown. The name selected, was taken from that of the manor of "Claremont", the home of the noted General of the British Empire, Lord Clive. It is quaintly stated that, "several of the early settlers may be noticed as somewhat distinguished".<sup>2</sup> Some of them had been officers in the Seven Years' War. Others became associated with the events formative of the new nation. The Stevens family had an acknowledged relation to affairs<sup>3</sup> and held it continuously by the will of the community as long as it remained connected with the locality. On the outbreak of the American Revolution the town was divided between Whigs and Tories, the former being in majority. Elihu Stevens, who was a Whig, was an active member of the Committee of Safety, and bore intimate relation to the

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<sup>1</sup> Rachel, wife of Hon. Elihu Stevens, was daughter of Josiah Meigs, who was son of Janna Meigs, of Guilford, and Hannah his wife, the daughter of Josiah Willard, son of Major Simon Willard, of the family of Willard, of Horsmonden, co. Kent. Major Willard held large landed estates in New England, and was one of the civil and military leaders in Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> Coolidge and Mansfield's Hist. of New England, Vol. I, 445.

<sup>3</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, 464.

affairs of the community, and of the new State then in process of establishment. In May, 1777, during the progress of the War, he was appointed at popular request,<sup>1</sup> Justice of the Peace for the county, a position then of considerable responsibility, and which he held for the remainder of his life. "Elihu Stevens, Esquire", was three times elected a member of the Provincial Congress of New Hampshire—during the year of independence 1776, and again in 1777 and 1778—and took active part in the proceedings of that body.<sup>2</sup> The family archives contain receipts for payments made through his hands to officers and men of the army sent against General Burgoyne, and in operation in the northern campaign; and also for munitions of war for the Continental Army. When the present national constitution was submitted to the several States for formal ratification, with the provision that the favorable action of nine States should be necessary for its adoption, it fell to the lot of New Hampshire to cast the ninth and deciding vote; which she did June 21, 1788. On the previous February 7th, Elihu Stevens was appointed one of those authorized to give the decision of Claremont to this State Convention.<sup>3</sup> In 1792 he was appointed to act in this manner in the adoption of the State Constitution of New Hampshire.<sup>4</sup> Together with his sons Josiah, Henry and Roswell, he signed a protest July 14, 1782, against the claims of Vermont to jurisdiction over part of New Hampshire, including

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<sup>1</sup> State Papers of New Hampshire, Vol. III, 578.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* III, 430, 739, 788.

<sup>3</sup> Waite's History of Claremont, 59; Claremont Town Records 1778. A copy of the first edition of the Constitution of the United States issued a few days after the Philadelphia Convention, expressly for this purpose of officially informing the States of the nature of the document, with a view to its ratification, was preserved by Elihu Stevens, now part of the family archives.

<sup>4</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, 63, 64; Claremont Town Records, 1792.

Claremont, which claims were partly settled by a personal letter from General Washington reviewing the points involved and siding with the New Hampshire interests, and partly by a resolution of Congress offering to admit Vermont as a State subject to prescribed boundaries.<sup>1</sup> The official announcement sent in 1791 by Congress for proclamation in Claremont of the creation of Vermont as a State under these limited conditions, is among the Squire's official papers, with marks upon it of its having been publicly made known. The Squire's private papers indicate, (often mentioning him by the name of "Stephens",) that he kept personal contact with Guilford—which contact was maintained by the family down to the time of the present writer's father. His lands lay both at Guilford and Claremont; and in addition to their care he was administrator of the Meigs landed possessions at Guilford. He married October 31, 1750, Rachel, eldest daughter and coheiress of Josiah Meigs, Esq., of Guilford, who was born 1733,

and was of the family of his great grandmother Mary Meigs. She died July 21, 1798, and he married secondly Jerusha, widow of Colonel N. Leonard, of Sunderland,

Massachusetts, who died November 9, 1808. He died January 27, 1814, at the age of eighty-three, having by his first wife had issue;

I. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSIAH, born at Guilford, Conn., August 12, 1752,<sup>2</sup> in the reign of King George II, of whom presently.

<sup>1</sup> Waite's History of Claremont, 52-55.

<sup>2</sup> Waite's History of Claremont, 464.

*Elihu Stevens*  
FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURE OF ELIHU  
STEVENS

II. Elihu, born at Guilford, March 21, 1755, who went to Claremont with his father and brothers, and married April 2, 1798, Lucretia Matthews, and had issue a son Elihu, who died September 5, 1799, in infancy; and five daughters, Charity, Rachel, Sarah, Roxana, and Fannie, all of whom married. Charity, the eldest coheiress, born July 3, 1784, married Solomon Walker.

III. Henry, born February 7, 1757, who married February 26, 1777, Martha, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Waite,<sup>1</sup> who had been a captain in Roger's Rangers in the Seven Years' War, and in the regiment of Green Mountain Boys, under Col. Ethan Allen, in the American Revolution, being present at the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Allen, 1775, subsequently becoming Lieutenant Colonel, and being mortally wounded 1776.<sup>2</sup> Henry was drowned in Cayuga Lake, November 13, 1800.

IV. Roswell, born at Guilford, August 8, 1760, who married Lucy Chapin, and died May 27, 1832, having had issue;

1. Levi, who died March 14, 1804, at the age of seventeen.

V. Meigs, born April 28, 1763, who married January 29, 1790, Lucretia, daughter of Andrew Evarts, Esq., of East Guilford, and dying April 6, 1846, had issue;

1. Linus, born April 9, 1792, who married February 8, 1818, Sarah Whitmore, who died

<sup>1</sup> Claremont Town Records, 1777.

<sup>2</sup> Waite's History of Claremont, 488, 489.

November 1, 1846; and secondly April 27, 1848, Jerusha Hurlburt, of Lebanon, N. H.<sup>1</sup> He died March 14, 1873, having had issue by his first wife, Paran, born January 29, 1821, who died in infancy, and Lucretia E., Cynthia A. and Sarah M., and by his second wife;

(a) Emma Jane, born October 1, 1850, who married September 6, 1870, Lawrence A. Tolles, Esq., of Claremont, and had issue;

(aa) Minnie Hurlburt, born February 25, 1873, who married February 25, 1897, Victor L. Davis, of Marceline, Mo.

(bb) Edwin Harvey, born September 10, 1877, who married June 23, 1903, Miriam Gertrude Lengerhan.

(cc) Eva Mae, born November 19, 1882, who married June 4, 1901, Lucien Cullen Myricks.

(b) Sarah Eva, born June 30, 1852, who married December 4, 1872, Frank P. Thrasher, of Claremont, and died April 13, 1882.

2. Clarissa, born May 27, 1794, who married Jacob Fisher, of Woodstock, Vt., and died March 26, 1879.

3. Ambrose Evarts, born May 28, 1797, who

<sup>1</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, 4-68.

married Sally Whitcomb, of Newport, N. H., and died August 3, 1831, having had issue;

(a) Hon. Hiram Ambrose, of Boston, Mass., born October 18, 1823, member of the Massachusetts Legislature, 1861-1862; State Senator 1864-1865; Member of the State Commission which went to the battlefield of Gettysburg a few days after the victory of General Meade's army, in the American Civil War, to identify the dead soldiers of Massachusetts, and select site for a monument; which monument was dedicated November 19, 1864. Senator Stevens married Maria Frances, daughter of John Chandler, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, and died January 10, 1888, having had issue;

(aa) Sarah Annie, born December 23, 1850, who died December 15, 1852.

(bb) Hetty Maria, born December 17, 1853, who married March 18, 1889, Samuel T. Cobb, Jr.

(cc) Clara, born February 14, 1856, who married June 19, 1873, George Albert Kittredge, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, who died September 15, 1879, having had issue a son, George Hiram, born August 5, 1876, who died in a few days.

(*dd*) Martha Abby, born February 9, 1858, who married June 1, 1874, Jeremiah C. Kittredge, of Brookline, Massachusetts, who died December 19, 1898.

(*ee*) Hiram Frederick, of New York city, born December 7, 1861, who married February 25, 1885, Ida Howard Smith, of South Framingham, Massachusetts, and has had issue, two daughters, Eleanor Beaumont, born March 22, 1897, and Priscilla Chilton, born February 6, 1902.

(*ff*) Mary Lizzie, born February 15, 1864.

(*gg*) Moses Long, of Boston, Massachusetts, who married October 4, 1893, Marcia Sylvester, and has had issue a daughter Frances Sylvester, born September 27, 1894; and a son Roger Chandler, born December 15, 1901, who died in infancy.

(*b*) Abby E. who married Judson Graves, Esq.

V. Ziba, twin brother of Meigs, born April 28, 1763, who married May 26, 1785, Lydia, daughter of Captain Gideon Kirtland, who died November 23, 1829. He died January 2, 1834 having had issue;

1. Ziba, born April 16, 1786, who married Nancy Hatch of Weathersfield, Vermont,

and had issue, besides four daughters, two sons, Gilbert, of Melrose, who married Lucinda Hall, and George, of Kishwaukee, Illinois, who was born in 1856. The latter had besides two daughters Clara A., and Alma, two sons, Harry Arnold, born November, 1881, and Orlo B., born November 16, 1900.

2. Cynthia, born December 15, 1787, who married Nathaniel James.
3. Sylvia, born December 10, 1789, who died in infancy.
4. Eli, born February 20, 1791, who died in infancy.
5. Charles, born June 15, 1793, who married Friendly Thomas.
6. Eli, born January 13, 1796, who married January 13, 1817, Clarinda Fisher, and died December 25, 1836, having had issue besides daughters Harriet, Jerusha L., Lutheria M. and Caroline M. T., two sons, as follows ;
  - (a) James D. born December 10, 1821, who married Florence Campbell, of Washington, Vermont, and had issue with others who died early, a son ;
    - (aa) Paran, born 1854, who married \_\_\_\_\_ and removed to Salt Lake City.
  - (b) Leonard McC., born April 16, 1835, who married Margaret Ridgway, of Nova Scotia, and had issue ;
    - (aa) Elihu, born May 8, 1866.

(*bb*) James W., born August 4, 1868.

(*cc*) Joseph T., born December 22, 1873.

(*dd*) Caroline M. T., born May 13, 1876.

(*ee*) Hannah C., born August 20, 1880, who died March 2, 1881.

7. Daniel, born January 6, 1799, died June 1832, unmarried.

8. Lydia, born December 31, 1804, who married Horace Garfield, Esq.

9. Henry, born December 31, 1806.

VII. Linus, M. D., of Clinton, Mich., seventh child of Hon. Elihu Stevens, born January 19, 1766, was a physician. He married first —— Lovewell, who died April 1, 1798, and secondly, —— ——, and died March 11, 1851, having had issue two children by each wife, as follows;

1. Seymour, born 1795, who died in infancy.

2. Luther E., born 1797, who died September 9, 1839.

3. Fanny, born 1801, who died in infancy.

4. Colonel Linus Willard, of New York city, who for many years commanded the 7th Regiment, New York National Guard. He had three sons, Henry Willard, Samuel and George, and a daughter, Mary A., who married Gilbert M. Plympton.

VIII. Rachael, born July 9, 1768, who married February 19, 1789,<sup>1</sup> Roswell Clapp, of Charlestown, N. H.

<sup>1</sup> Claremont Town Records, 1789.

IX. Betty, born December 21, 1770, who married Sylvanus Church.

X. Eliza, born October 5, 1773, who married Benedick Roys.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSIAH STEVENS, of Guilford, Connecticut, and Claremont, New Hampshire, eldest son and heir of Hon. Elihu Stevens, was born in Guilford and went with his father to Claremont. He was Ensign in Captain Christopher Webber's Company, of Colonel Daniel Hobart's Regiment (12th New Hampshire Continental Line), in General Stark's Brigade, and was present at the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777,<sup>1</sup> where he took part in the charges on the Hessians' redoubt, his regiment bearing the brunt of this, which was one of the hottest battles of the war. He joined in following up the retreat of General Burgoyne, and was in the Continental Army in the North, seeing active service at Fort Ticonderoga and in the campaign under General Gates. He was

commissioned Second

Lieutenant of the 19th New Hampshire Regiment in 1785; Captain of the company in 1791; Major of the 2d Battalion 1797, and Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the regiment 1798,<sup>2</sup> which command he resigned February 10, 1803.

<sup>1</sup> Spofford's Revolutionary Soldiers of Claremont, N. H. p. 14. New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls XV, 146-148; Report of Adjutant General of New Hampshire, II, 315, 320, 324.

<sup>2</sup> At that period there was no officer of the rank of Colonel in New Hampshire, the Lieutenant Colonel taking his place and having full regimental command.

A cursive signature of "Josiah Stevens" in black ink.

FACSIMILE OF SIGNATURE OF COL. JOSIAH STEVENS

The name of Colonel Stevens is found among those who contributed of their private means, at the request of the then weak and impoverished Government of the United States to aid in paying the troops of the Continental Army;<sup>1</sup> the sum thus contributed exceeding the sum due to him by the government for his own military services, as is recorded in the War Department at Washington. He was a



ARMS OF DUDLEY OF GUILFORD<sup>3</sup>

large owner of lands in and around Claremont, and was for many years Justice of the Peace. In 1798 he was elected a member of the Legislature of New Hampshire. He married first, January 25, 1775,<sup>2</sup> Abigail, daughter of Ebenezer Dudley, Esq., of East Guilford, Conn., who died April, 1790, and who was mother of his first six children; and secondly September 9, 1790,<sup>4</sup> Matilda, daugh-

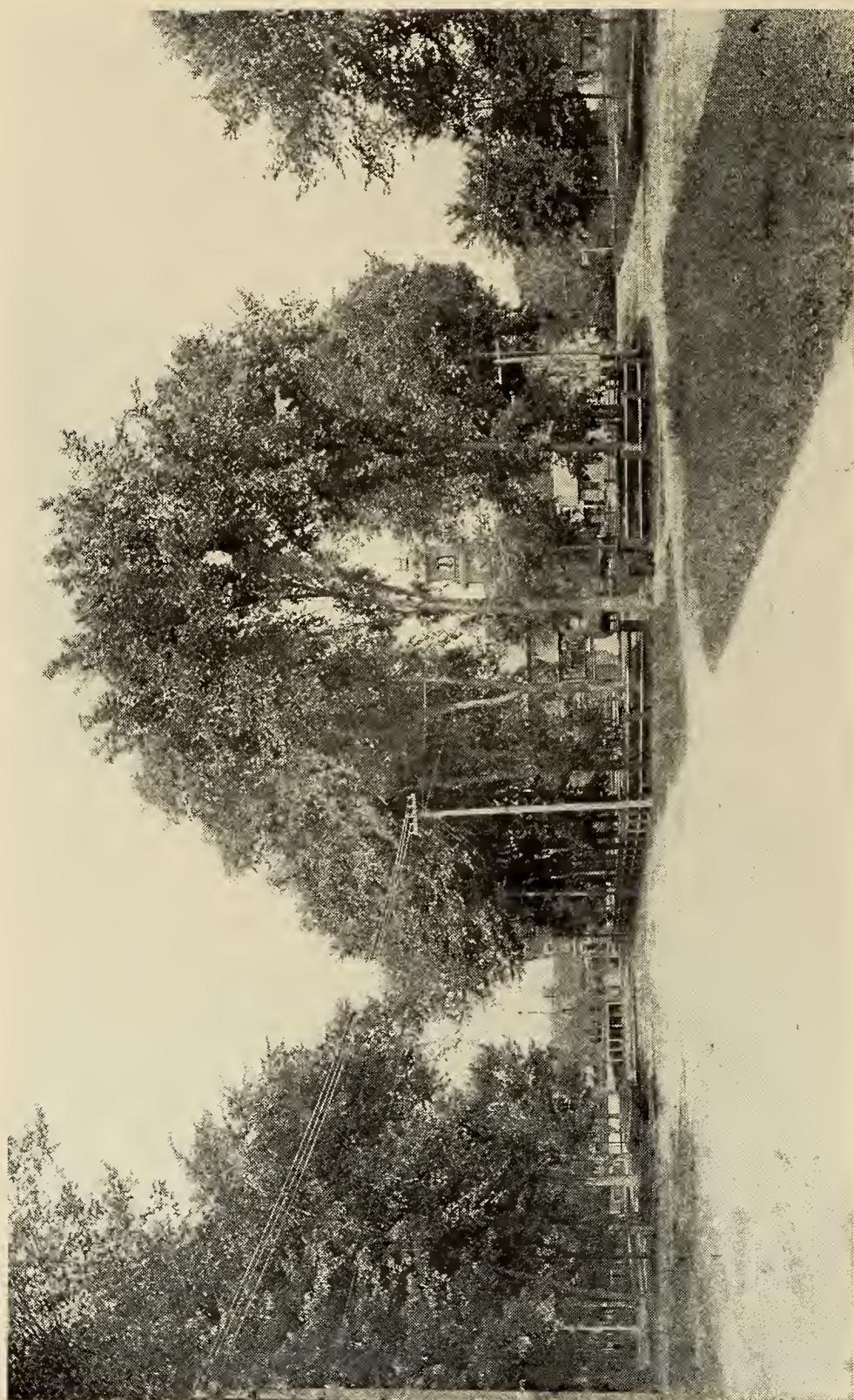
<sup>1</sup> State Papers N. H., Rev. Rolls, Vol. XVI, 608.

<sup>2</sup> New England Hist. Genealogical Register, Vol. V, 372.

<sup>3</sup> Arms of Dudley of Guilford: Sable on a fesse argent between two lions passant in chief, and a sinister hand in base or, a buck currant gules. Crest: A buck's head erased argent attired sable, the neck transpierced with an arrow barbed and flighted proper, and gorged with a collar gules pendant therefrom an escutcheon of the second charged with a hand as in the arms. These arms are the same as those of the Dudleys of Willington House, co. Cambridge, Baronets, a branch of the historic house of Dudley.

<sup>4</sup> Captain Cooke, who lived in a fine old mansion on the road to Windsor, Vt., built by him in 1799, and still standing, possessed an old drawing of his family coat of arms, but it was lost within the memory of persons now living (1904). As there are several English families of the name, and their arms differ, the present writer has been unable to identify his. He is





THE PARK, CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Presented to the town by Colonel Josiah Stevens

ter of John Cooke, Esq., of Norton, Conn., a Captain in the Continental Army.<sup>1</sup> In 1792 he was one of those, including his father, appointed to represent the town in the adoption of the State Constitution of New Hampshire. His second wife died April 2, 1826, having been the mother of his other eight children. He died April 10, 1827,<sup>2</sup> having had issue ;

- I. Abigail, born July 14, 1776, who died September 28, 1777.
- II. Abigail, born July 20, 1778, who married Daniel Parmelee.
- III. Josiah or William, born June 5, 1781, who died the same day.<sup>3</sup>
- IV. Ruth, born October 16, 1782, died November 24, in the same year.
- V. Josiah, born September 9, 1784, married 1808, Mary daughter of Ebenezer Fielding, Esq., who died November 21, 1843. He died February 3, 1857, having had issue ;
  1. Mary Miranda, born July 12, 1809, who died February 14, 1836, unmarried.
  2. Susan K., born November, 1816, who died October 8, 1831, unmarried.

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known to have been related to one of these families, but the connection has not been made out. His father came from England. He was born at Plymouth, Mass., September 13, 1736, and married March 27, 1759, Molly Godfrey, of Taunton, Mass., by whom he had twelve children—his daughter Matilda being born May 12, 1760. He died February 8, 1810.

<sup>1</sup> Claremont Town Records, 1790.

<sup>2</sup> The entry in the old Family Record reads: "Josiah Stevens, Esquire, born August 23rd A. D., 1752. Died on Tuesday, April 10th, A. D., 1827, aged 74 years, 7 months and 18 days."

<sup>3</sup> Spofford MS. calls his name William, and Claremont Town Records give the same name. As he died the day he was born, some confusion as to name may have existed. The family records give it Josiah.

3. Samuel Josiah, born August 23, 1821, who married Helen M. Whittlesley, of Massachusetts. He graduated at Dartmouth College, becoming Principal of Rome Academy, and for fifteen years Professor of Natural Science and Higher Mathematics in Rome Female College, Rome, Ga. When the college was closed during the American Civil War in consequence of General Sherman's march through Georgia, its faculty was removed to Statesville and placed in charge of Concord Female College. He became Professor in Charlotte College in 1871, and a year later Associate Principal of Peace Institute at Raleigh, North Carolina. The headship of the family which had passed in 1827 from Colonel Josiah Stevens to his eldest surviving son, Josiah, passed on the latter's death in 1857, to Professor Stevens, who was succeeded in this by his cousin, Hon. Charles Godfrey Stevens, of Clinton, Mass. Contrary to the usage of the family, however, the family archives never were placed in the hands of Professor Stevens, probably owing to the remoteness of his residence and his severance from the family by siding with the Southern Confederacy during the war, but were preserved at Claremont, in the care of Mrs. Miranda Stevens Fiske, daughter of Colonel Stevens, and finally were transmitted by her to Judge Stevens at Clinton. Professor Stevens' line

became extinct at his death April 26, 1875, childless. His wife died in Raleigh, October 20, 1893.

- VI. Ruth, sixth child of Colonel Stevens and Abigail Dudley, born July 18, 1787, married Nathaniel Rice, and died May, 1819.
- VII. Matilda, first child of the second marriage, born June 28, 1791, married January 1, 1812, Hon. Samuel Fiske, of Brookfield, Mass., and Claremont, N. H., who graduated at Harvard University, 1793, and was an attorney-at-law and Senator of New Hampshire. She was his second wife, and died August 28, 1820, having had issue ;
  1. William Oliver, born September 16, 1812, who married Mary Delano, of Charlestown, Mass.
  2. Sarah Matilda, born June 22, 1814, who married Frederick H. Stimpson, of Boston, Mass.
  3. Mary Miranda, born December 25, 1815, who died in infancy.
  4. Caroline Bill.
  5. Nancy, who married James Hall, M. D., of Baltimore, Md., and died childless.
- VII. Alfred, born June 9, 1793, who died March 8, 1795.
- IX. Alfred, born May 9, 1795, who died March 8, 1796.
- X. HON. GODFREY, born September 10, 1796,<sup>1</sup> of whom presently.
- XI. Alvah, born December 11, 1798,<sup>2</sup> who married April

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<sup>1</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, 465.

<sup>2</sup> Waite, Ibid, p. 466, says December 12.

5, 1820, Almira Whedon, and died February 20, 1858, childless. He adopted a son Albert, who died October 17, 1843, childless.

XII. Edwin Baxter, born November 24, 1800, who graduated at Dartmouth College, and was studying to become a physician, when he was accidentally drowned June 22, 1825.



FISKE ARMS<sup>2</sup>

XIII. Paran, born September 11, 1802.<sup>1</sup> See Line III.

XIV. Miranda, born November 25, 1804, who married October 25, 1826, Samuel Philips Fiske, Esq., of Claremont, New Hampshire, only son of Hon. Samuel Fiske by his first marriage, and descended from Seymond Fiske, lord of the manor of Stradbough, co. Suffolk, temp. Henry IV, 1399. He founded the Fiske Free Library at Claremont, containing some 7,000 volumes, and with his wife gave it an endowment.<sup>3</sup> He died February 8, 1879, childless, and she May 27, 1882.

<sup>1</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, 466.

<sup>2</sup> Fiske Arms: Chequy argent and gules, on a pale sable three mullets pierced or. Crest: On a triangle argent an estoile or.

<sup>3</sup> Waite's Hist. of Claremont, pp. 146-150.

HON. GODFREY STEVENS, of Claremont, New Hampshire, was as his father and grandfather had been before him, the "Squire" of Claremont, being Justice of the Peace from 1827 until his death. He was member of the Legislature of New Hampshire in 1829, 1830, 1833, 1834, 1835, and 1840. He married November 28, 1818, Hannah,<sup>1</sup> daughter of Captain William Welstead Poole, of Hollis, New Hampshire, who served in the Continental Army, and heiress to her brother, Major-General James Poole, of the ancient family of the Poole's of Dorsetshire, who with Sir Richard Saltonstall, and Richard Grenville, Lord Brooke of Beauchamp's Court, obtained from Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, large grants of lands in New England, conveyed to the Earl by the Crown.<sup>3</sup> Lord Brooke, who afterwards fell, fighting under Cromwell, seriously contemplated settling in America. Sir Richard Saltonstall did so, and John Poole, Esq., took up residence in Reading, now Wakefield, Massachusetts, 1632 on part of his lands. Godfrey Stevens died September 18, 1842, and his wife, January 10, 1861, having had issue;

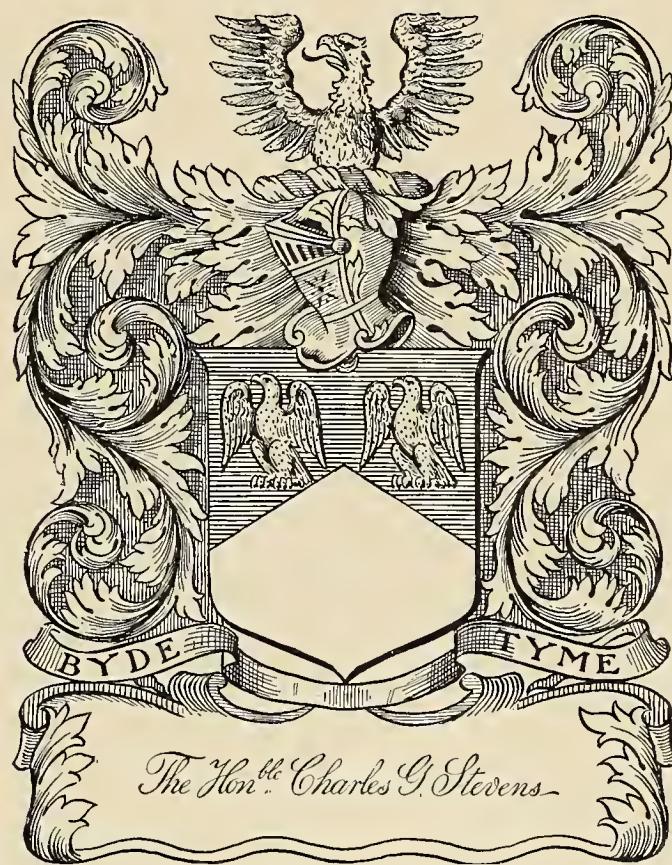
POOLE ARMS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> She was born 1791-2.

<sup>2</sup> Poole Arms: Azure, semeé of fleur-de-lis, a lion rampant argent: Crest: A lion's gamb, gules, armed argent. Motto: "Pollet virtus."

<sup>3</sup> "Warwick Castle and its Earls", by the Countess of Warwick, Vol. II, 88.

- I. Sarah Jane, born August 26, 1819, who married Albert Pease and died July 26, 1863, having had issue ;
  1. Sarah Theresa, born July 12, 1844.
  2. William Godfrey, born March 7, 1846, who died in infancy.
  3. Ellen Matilda, born April 16, 1848, who married 1873, David J. Bond, of Burlington, Vt., and died 1893, having had issue ;
    - (a) William Albert, who died young.
    - (b) Raymond Stevens, who died young.
    - (c) Charles Augustus, born April 19, 1881, who died March 10, 1887.
    - (d) Nelson Pease, born June 25, 1883, who died while a student at the University of Vermont, 1902.
    - (e) Lilla Stevens, born April 5, 1885.
  4. Eliza Stevens, born October 19, 1853.
- II. Hon. Charles Godfrey, of "Brownhouse", Clinton, Mass., born September 16, 1821, who studied at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1840, and from the law department of Harvard University in 1845, and became an attorney-at-law. He was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Dartmouth. In 1853, he was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention; and of the Senate of Massachusetts in 1862. During the American Civil War he was active in raising bodies of troops for the Northern army, and was appointed by Governor Andrew in 1862, a Draft Commissioner. He



BOOK-PLATE OF JUDGE CHARLES G. STEVENS



was for a long time President of the First National Bank at Clinton, and was founder and first President of the Clinton Hospital Association, and a warden of the Church of the Good Shepherd. In 1874 he was appointed for life by the Governor of Massachusetts, Judge of the District Court of the Second District of Eastern Worcester, and in 1875 succeeded his cousin Professor Stevens, as head of the family. He married September 29, 1846, Laura A., daughter of Eli Russell, Esq., of Walpole, New Hampshire, and granddaughter of Captain Benjamin Floyd, of the Continental Army.<sup>1</sup> Judge Stevens died Trinity Sunday, June 13, 1897, having had issue;

1. Colonel Edward Godfrey, of "The Ledges," Clinton, Mass., born June 27, 1847, who after studying at Dartmouth College, entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., in 1866, where he graduated with honors 1870. He was immediately appointed an Instructor in the Academy. Subsequently he became Second Lieutenant in the 5th United States Cavalry, resigning his commission in 1872. Later he was appointed Colonel and Inspector-General on the staffs of Governors Rice, Long and Talbot, of Massachusetts. He was elected a member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1881, 1882. He married first May 21, 1879, Fanny Ball, daughter of Simeon Brittan, Esq., of Boston, Mass., who died

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<sup>1</sup> She was born in Westminster, Vt., January 11, 1825.

August 14, 1883; and secondly, April 14, 1885, Helen M. Brittan. He succeeded to the headship of the family on the death of his father in 1897, and at his death, April 10, 1901, it devolved upon his cousin, the Rev. C. Ellis Stevens. By his first wife he had issue;

(a) Marguerite Fiske, born April 9, 1880.  
2. Charles Russell, born June 21, 1856, who died April 21, 1868.  
3. Ellen Kate, born June 18, 1860.

III. JAMES EDWARD POOLE, born at Claremont, September 4, 1827, which;

JAMES EDWARD POOLE STEVENS, Esq., of "Rosecliffe", near Philadelphia, second son of Hon. Godfrey Stevens, held lands at Claremont, and acquired "Rosecliffe" during the American Civil War. He was liberal in public benefactions. On October 5, 1852, he married at Claremont, Mary Pitkin, daughter and heiress of J. Bishop Abrams, Esq., of "Ellis Place", near Saratoga Springs, New York, and descendant through the ninth Lord Beauchamp, of Eleanor de Clare, eldest coheiress of the De Clares, Earls of Gloucester.<sup>1</sup> This marriage brought into association the line of the present representative of the Gloucestershire family of Stephens with the line of the ancient Norman Earls of the shire. Through Lord Beauchamp Mrs. Stevens' descent also includes the Earls of Warwick, Pembroke and Surry, and coheiresses of four abeyant peerages, as well as connection with the royal lineage of the house of Plantagenet, and that of Tudor. Mrs. Stevens, who grad-

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<sup>1</sup> The service was performed by Carlton Chase, D. D., first Bishop of New Hampshire.

uated with honors at Kimball Union Academy, and subsequently at Mrs. Emma Willard's School at Troy, N. Y., married secondly November 1, 1866, the Rev. Henry Boardman Ensworth, sometime Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Chicago, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Pittsburgh, having one son by him, Samuel Cassius Ensworth, who was born February 26, 1868, and died in 1881. She is living, (1904).<sup>1</sup> Mr. Stevens died December 9, 1865, having had issue :

- I. THE REV. CHARLES ELLIS, born at Boston, Mass., July 5, 1853, of whom presently.
- II. Lucy Pitkin, born May 20, 1855, who married Malloy Hunt Taylor, Esq., of Macon, Ga., Lecturer in Mercer University, and had issue ;
  1. Mallory Hunt, born June 8, 1880, who married November 26, 1902, Mary Sims, daughter of D. C. Wheeler, of Chattanooga, Tenn., and has issue ;
    - (a) Virginia Wheeler, born November, 1903.
  2. Mary Elizabeth, born November 22, 1881, who married October 13, 1903, Robert Fowler Hemphill, Esq., of Atlanta, Ga.
- III. Mary A., born June 19, 1857, who died September 15, 1870, unmarried.
- IV. Captain James Edward Poole, of Macon, Ga., born May 27, 1861, who was commissioned Second Lieutenant, and promoted First Lieutenant and Battalion Adjutant, 2d Georgia Infantry, and in 1895, Captain of the Macon Light Infantry. During the

<sup>1</sup> For the ancestry of Mrs. Stevens, see Edgemere MS. ; New England Hist. Geneal. Register, Vol. XIV, 61, 62 ; Vol. XV, 117, 217, 318 ; Vol. XVII, 32 ; and any works of English history and genealogy, for themes covered.

Spanish-American War he was Captain of a company in the 1st Georgia Infantry Regiment, United States Volunteers, in active service.

THE REV. CHARLES ELLIS STEVENS, LL. D., D. C. L., F. S. A., Knight Commander of the Order of Christ of Portugal, Knight of the Order of Isabella the Catholic of Spain, etc., of New York, and "Edgemere", Lake George, N. Y.,<sup>1</sup> was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University; and in 1875 graduated in theology at Berkeley Divinity School, subsequently travelling and studying in Europe. He took a post-graduate course in history and political science at the University of Wooster and received on examination the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In 1875 he was ordained deacon by the Rt. Rev. John Williams, D. D., Bishop of Connecticut, and in 1877 priest by the Rt. Rev. A. N. Littlejohn, D. D., Bishop of Long Island. From 1876 to 1878 he was Curate of Grace Church on the Heights, Brooklyn, N. Y., then Rector of the Church of the Ascension, in the same city, subsequently becoming an Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Long Island, and Chairman of the Boards of Diocesan Church Extension, and Church Education, and associated with other ecclesiastical work. He was appointed Archdeacon of Brooklyn in 1887 with an official stall in the Cathedral of the diocese. He became the founder of five new parishes in his archdeaconry — St. Jude's, St. Timothy's, St. Clement's, the Church of the Epiphany, and St. Andrew's. In 1891, he became Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia, and during the Spanish-American War was Chaplain of the 19th Pennsylvania Infantry. He has been Lecturer on Constitutional History and Law

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<sup>1</sup> This biography is mainly from Cyclopaedia of American Biography, "Who's Who"; Matthews' American Armory; Register Order of Foreign Wars, etc., and prepared by other hands than the author of the present volume.



C. Ellis Stevens, LL.D., D.C.L.

*Knight Commander of the Order of Christ of Portugal.*

BOOK-PLATE



in St. Stephen's College, the University of Wooster, the University of the City of New York, and the University of Pennsylvania, and is author of several works, including "Sources of the Constitution of the United States, Considered in Relation to Colonial and English History", which has been published in two editions in America and England, and, being translated into French by an official of the French

<sup>1</sup> This book-plate has been produced as an illustration of complete "marshalling" of arms, in "Heraldry in America", and also copied in the publications of the Ex Libris Society of England. The following description is taken from the former work, pp. 322-324. "On the dexter side the arms are quartered according to the English heraldic law, and on the impaled side according to the Scottish law, which is nearly the same as that in use upon the continent of Europe. All the quarterings have been inherited from heiresses, and are preserved in seals, or in sepulchral or manorial sculptures, and recorded in the Visitations of the College of Heralds. The quarterings are in fact, so ancient as to illustrate many points of interest in the history of heraldry,—some of them dating from the time of actual use of coat-armor in battle and tournament. Such for instance, is the sixth quartering which represents the fur called vaire. This is the oldest device of the shields of the Raleighs, of Devonshire, and has been quartered by ancestors of the present owner since before the days of Sir Walter Raleigh, who belonged to a later generation of the same house. Space does not permit of a full description of the many points of this emblazonry; but it may be mentioned that the ninth quartering is of the family of Howley, of which was Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury; the tenth quartering is that of the arms of Sir Robert Tresilian, Lord Chief Justice of England in 1382. Sir Robert was beheaded and attainted by the rebellious baronage for his loyalty for the King, forfeiting the right to transmit arms to his descendants. The arms are here quartered in consequence of a subsequent royal grant of King Richard II. The eleventh and twelfth quarterings are interesting as furnishing an old example of the noting of difference in heraldic inheritance by reversal of tinctures. The first, ninth, tenth and fourteenth quarterings illustrate ancient usages of hunting and the chase. The impaled arms are those of the house of Aikman, lairds of Cairney, Rosse and Brambleton, which has a recorded descent of eight hundred years in Scotland. The arms of the first impaled quarter relate to the knightly deed that gave the family its name,—which in English meaning is "Oakman". This deed of Scottish story has been rendered famous by Shakespeare in his tragedy of "Macbeth", and is therefore of unusual interest. The founder of the house was an officer of the forces which overthrew the usurper Macbeth and restored to the Scottish throne the rightful King, Malcolm III. In attacking Macbeth's stronghold of Dunsinane he planned a surprise. Each soldier advancing toward the castle through the wood of Birnam, which to the present day is magnificent with its growth of oaks, was ordered to cover himself with oak boughs so as to seem part of the forest. Shakespeare's reference to this event is in the poetic form of the supposed witches' prophecy to Macbeth by means of an apparition bearing the Aikman crest of a tree, and uttering the words—

" Macbeth shall never vanquished be, until  
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him".

"The victory is commemorated by the arms, which show in the 'engrailed bend', gules, flowing blood of battle, and display a left hand holding an oak branch, the right hand being supposed to be reserved for the using of sword or spear. The crest of the family is an

government, also published on the continent of Europe. He has been elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Edinburgh, the Royal Geographical Society, of London, and a member of other learned bodies in America and Europe. In 1888 he received simultaneously the honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from the University of Wooster, and Doctor of Civil Law from King's College, Canada. In 1894 he was knighted by Maria Christina, Queen Regent of Spain, in the name of Alphonso XIII, then a minor; being granted by letters patent, the decoration of the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic, in recognition of services to political science and constitutional government. In the same year, Charles II, King of Portugal created him a Knight Comman-

oak tree, and the motto, 'Sub robore virtus'—'Valor beneath the oak. \* \* \* The Aikman second impaled quartering is an example of a 'grand quarter', i. e., a quartering of quarterings. It dates from the reign of Edward III, and is the well-known coat of arms of West, Lord De La Warr, of which family was the Lord De La Warr from whom the State of Delaware is named \* \* \*. The fourth impaled quartering is of the Clarksons, of Yorkshire, a member of which family was appointed Secretary of the Province of New York by William of Orange. The fifth is of the DePeysters of New York". The arms of Stone might be quartered here as they were by Sir Philip; but comment on their doubtfulness has already been made. See p. 38. The present writer thinks it proper to explain that this book-plate is not the result of his own choice in emblazoning all the quarterings, though entitled to them, but that it was engraved as a present to him from a valued friend.

The heraldic description is as follows: Arms, Stevens Quarterly of sixteen: 1. Per chevron azure and argent, in chief two falcons volant or—for STEVENS. 2. Gules, on a bend cotised argent, a bendlet wavy azure—for LUGG. 3. Or, a chevron between three mascles gules, on a chief of the last a wolf passant argent—for MEIGS. 4. Argent, a chevron sable between three roses gules, seeded and leaved proper—for WEST, (Bishop of Ely). 5. Argent, a chevron engrailed gules between three leopard's faces azure, a crescent for difference of the last—for COPLESTON. 6. Or, a bend vaires—for RALEIGH. 7. Ermine, a fesse between three cinquefoils gules—for GRAAS, of DEVON. 8. Gules, two bends wavy argent—for BRUER. 9. Or, in fesse two mullets between three bugle-horns sable, stringed gules, through that in base an arrow in pale point downward of the second, barbed and feathered argent—for HOWLEY. 10. Azure, a chevron or, between three bucks statant argent—for TRESILIAN. 11. Gules, a fret and canton argent—for HEWIS. 12. Argent, a fret gules—for BLANCHMINSTER. 13. Gironny of eight, argent and gules—for PEVEREL. 14. Azure, a chevron between boars' heads couped or—for LUDEFORD. 15. Argent, on a chevron gules, between three covered cups or, a dagger of the second, tau sable—for BARDOLF. 16. Azure, semé of fleurs-de-lis and a lion rampant argent—for POOLE: impaling Aikman, quarterly of six; 1 and 6, argent, a sinister hand in base issuing out of a cloud fesseways, holding an oaken baton paleways, with a branch sprouting out at the top thereof proper, surmounted of a bend engrailed gules—for AIKMAN. 2. Grand quarter (I and IV) Argent, a fesse dancetté sable—for WEST, (II and III) Gules, three leopards' faces reversed, jessant de lis or—for CANTELUPE.

der of the Royal Military Order of Christ.<sup>1</sup> In 1898, he received from the French government appointment as Officer of the Academy of France. On the death of Colonel Edward G. Stevens, he succeeded as head of the family, being the eldest male representative of the line. He married May 23, 1878, Ella Monteith, eldest daughter of Walter Monteith Aikman, Esq., F. S. A., of New York, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the American Geographical Society, etc., grandson of John Aikman, Esq., of the manor of "Newhouse", co. Sterling, Scotland, of the family of Aikman, lairds of Carney, Rosse, and Brambleton, seated in Scotland since the eleventh century.<sup>3</sup> He has issue;

I. Margery Aikman, who was educated at Miss Agnes Irwin's School, and Drexel Institute, Philadelphia.

ARMS OF WALTER M. AIKMAN, F. S. A.<sup>2</sup>



3. Azure, two bars argent, on a chief or, three escallops of the first—for HAZARD. 4. Argent, on a bend engrailed sable, three annulets or—for CLARKSON. 5. Azure, on a terrace vert, a tree proper—for DE PEYSTER.

Crest: A demi-eagle displayed or. Motto: "Byde Tyme". Below the centre of the shield is suspended in accordance with heraldic usage in such case, the cross decoration of a Knight Commander of the Order of Christ of Portugal.

<sup>1</sup> This Order dates from the Middle Ages—A. D. 1317.

<sup>2</sup> The Aikman arms being impaled in the foregoing book-plate are there described. The quarterings are: 1 and 6. Aikman. 2. West and Cantelupe. 3. Hazard. 4. Clarkson.

5. De Peyster.

<sup>3</sup> Matthews' Armory, 1st ed., 215.

### LINE III.

PARAN STEVENS, Esq., of New York, and "Marietta Villa," Newport, R. I., thirteenth child of Lieutenant-Colonel Josiah Stevens, of Claremont, before mentioned,<sup>1</sup> married first 1824, Eliza, daughter of Joshua Raymond Jewett, Esq., of Granby, Conn., who died March 4, 1850. He married secondly June 5, 1851, Marietta, daughter of Ransom Reed, Esq., of Lowell, Mass. In 1866 he founded by special benefactions the Stevens High School, at Claremont, endowing it with \$50,000. He died April 25, 1872, having had issue by his first wife a daughter, and by his second wife a daughter and a son, as follows:

I. Ellen Matilda, of New York, and "Alderleigh", North East Harbor, Me., coheiress, born June 10, 1825, who married December 13, 1855, John Lowell Melcher, Esq., who died December 19, 1900, having had issue;

1. John Stevens, of New York, born August 23, 1859, who graduated B. A. at Harvard University, 1881, and from the law department of Columbia University, LL. B., 1884, and is an attorney-at-law. He married first December 31, 1889, Margaret Greenleaf, daughter of the Rev. Charles W. Homer, D.D., Rector of St. James' Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., who died May 15, 1899; and secondly June 3, 1904, Helen, eldest daughter of Edward F. de Selding, Esq. By his first wife he has had issue;

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 80.

1. Margaret Sybil, born September 4, 1892.  
 2. John 3d, born March 28, 1895.  
 II. Mary Fiske, born August 13, 1853, coheiress; who married July 27, 1871, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, in the presence of King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, and other members of the royal family, Major-General Arthur Henry Fitz-

roy Paget, C.V.O., eldest son and heir of Lieutenant-General Lord Alfred Henry Paget, C.B., Equerry to Queen Victoria, Chief Marshal of the Royal Household, and Member of Parliament for Litchfield, a son of Henry William Paget, first Marquess of Anglesey, who as



ARMS OF THE PAGET FAMILY MARQUESES OF ANGLESEY<sup>1</sup>

Earl of Uxbridge, was in command of the cavalry brigade at the battle of Waterloo, under the Duke of Wellington.<sup>2</sup> The Paget family descends from Sir William Paget, Lord Paget of Beaudesert,

<sup>1</sup> Arms of Paget, Marquess of Anglesey. Sable on a cross engrailed between four eagles displayed argent, five lions passant guardant of the field. Crest: A demi-heraldic tiger sable, maned, ducally gorged and tufted argent. Supporters: Two heraldic tigers sable, maned, ducally gorged and tufted argent. Motto: "Per il suo contrario". Over the shield the coronet of a Marquess.

<sup>2</sup> The Marquess was Master General of the Ordnance of the British army, Constable of Carnarvon Castle, Ranger of Snowden Forest, Vice Admiral of North Wales and Carnarthen, and was Knight of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Hanover, etc. The Marquisate was conferred upon him for his services at Waterloo.

Knight of the Garter, who was sent Ambassador to the Emperor Charles V, and was Secretary of State under King Henry VIII. General Paget has received military medals and honors for service in the Ashantee War, 1873, the Soudan Expedition, 1885, the Soudan War, 1888-9, and the South African War, when he was promoted to be Major-General, and received from the King in recognition of his services in some of the hottest battles of the war, the distinction of Companion of the Victorian Order.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Paget took leading part in the fitting out and sending to the aid of sick and wounded soldiers in the South African campaign the American Hospital Ship "Maine". They have had issue;

1. Albert Edward Sidney Louis, Second Lieutenant 11th Hussars, born May 22, 1879, and named in honor of King Edward VII, who when Prince of Wales, was sponsor for him at his baptism. He saw military service as a staff officer in the South African War.
2. Louisa Margaret Leila Wemyss.
3. Arthur Wyndham, } Twins, born March 6,
4. Reginald Scudamore, } 1888.

III. Henry Leiden, born October 21, 1858, who studied at the University of Oxford, and died unmarried July 18, 1885.

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<sup>1</sup> Burke's Peerage under Marquess of Anglesey, ed. 1903.

THE END.







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